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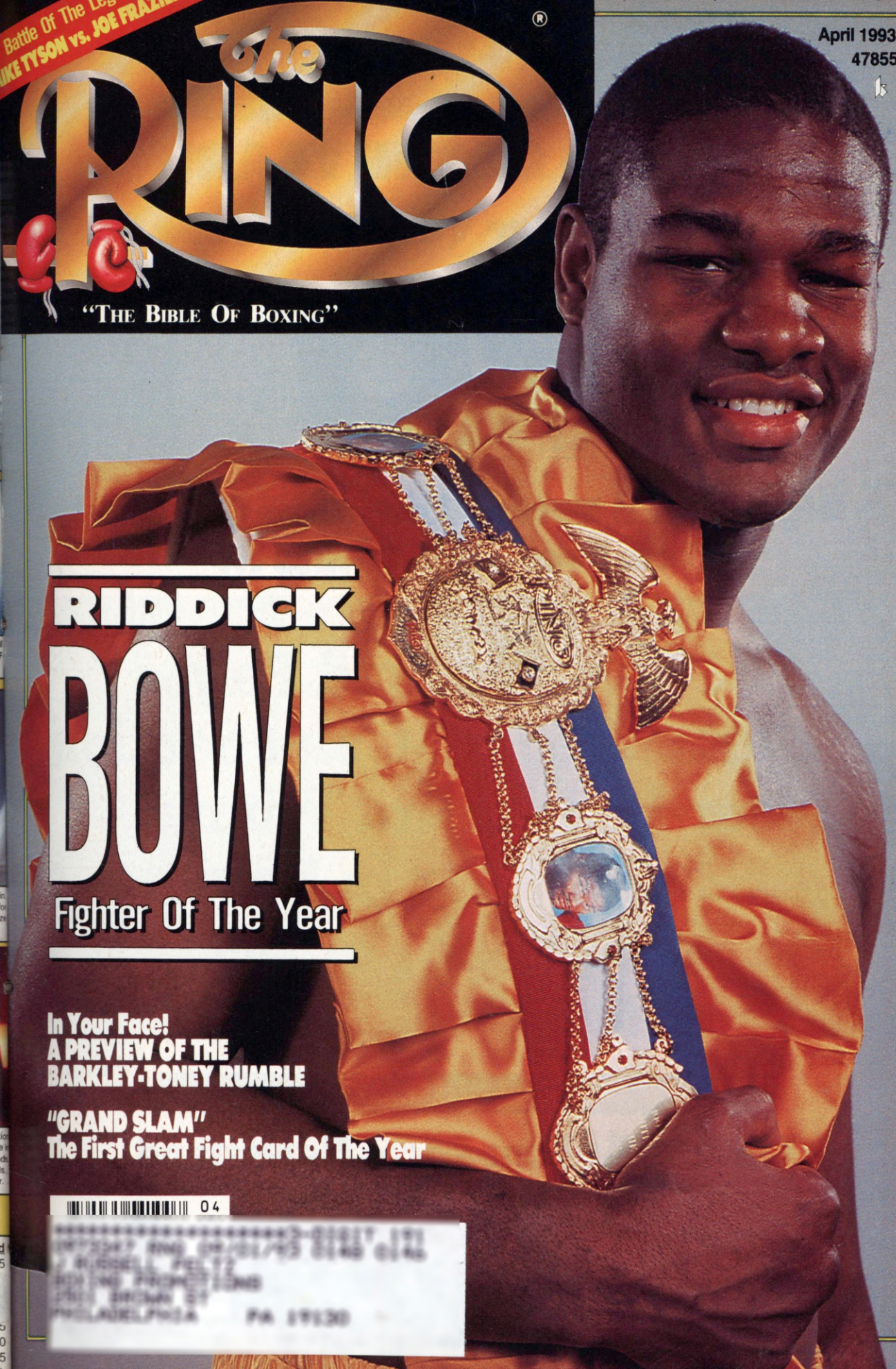

RIDDICK BOWE

Fighter Of The Year

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A PREVIEW OF THE BARKLEY-TONEY RUMBLE

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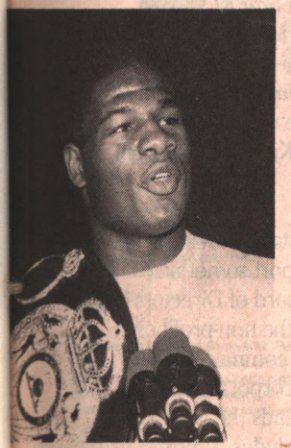
April 1993



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Cover Photo By Bill Apter

Ringside

For the first time in several months, I can happily report that the boxing forecast is partly sunny, with enough big fights ahead to create a heat wave that should last for most of the year. While 1992 wasn't a bad year, there are indications that 1993 will be a memorable one. Already scheduled are Michael Carbajal-Humberto Gonzalez, Buddy McGirt-Pernell Whitaker, and Iran Barkley-James Toney. Riddick Bowe-Lennox Lewis will rock the globe (though we may have to wait until 1994), and who knows, we may even see Julio Cesar Chavez-Terry Norris. All that, and Oscar De La Hoya and Roy Jones, too.

And you thought we'd all be killing time until whats-his-name gets out of jail.

It's probably a mistake to assume that certain fights will happen. In last year's year-end editorial, I mentioned six fights that figured to make 1992 a fight fan's delight. Not one of them materialized.

Before we wear out our crystal ball, let's hand out the hardware for 1992. Bowe was an easy choice for Fighter of the Year (see page 35). It took a special effort to dethrone Evander Holyfield, and those who doubted Bowe have been silent since November 13. Iran Barkley was the only other fighter as much as considered. Thought to be disposable, "The Blade" won a pair of world titles before the end of March. So what if he sat on his butt the rest of the year? When you fight like Barkley, you're better off waiting for a big payday.

Fight of the Year goes to Bowe W 12 Holyfield, with Michael Moorer KO 5 Bert Cooper a strong runner-up. Also noteworthy: Eliecer Julio W 12 Eddie Cook and Kevin Kelley W 12 Troy Dorsey. Knockout of the Year? Take your pick: Kennedy McKinney KO 11 Welcome Ncita or Morris East KO 11 Akinobu Hiranaka. Round of the Year was Bowe-Holyfield Round 10, which was also one of the rounds of all-time. McKinney-Ncita Round 11 also deserves a mention, with McKinney rising from the canvas to score a one-punch, come-from-behind kayo.

***

Back to the future: A lot of boxing writers are criticized for constantly focusing on the negative. (There's always enough to go around.) I'm glad to report something positive. In February, I will be attending the first meeting of the Board of Directors of B.O.X. (Beneficial Organization For Ex-Fighters). The objective of the non-profit organization is to assist former fighters and other members of the fight community that B.O.X. determines are in need. Revenues will be created through corporate sponsors, private donations, and special events. Randy Gordon, who heads the New York State Athletic Commission, is chairman. The Board of Directors includes Al Bernstein, Tony Danza, Don Dunphy, Gene Hackman, Archie Moore, Dr. Ferdie Pacheco, and Budd Schulberg. Here's to hoping we can provide some help to those who can't help themselves. ■

Steve Farhood
Editor-in-Chief

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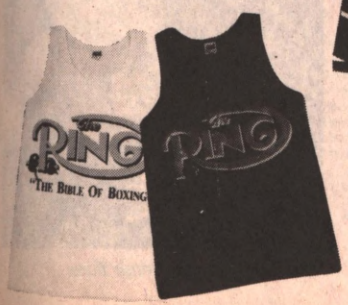

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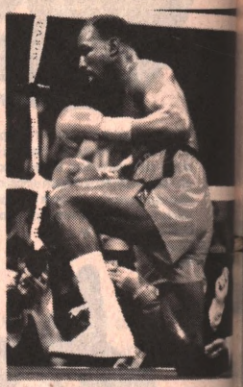
Come Out Writing

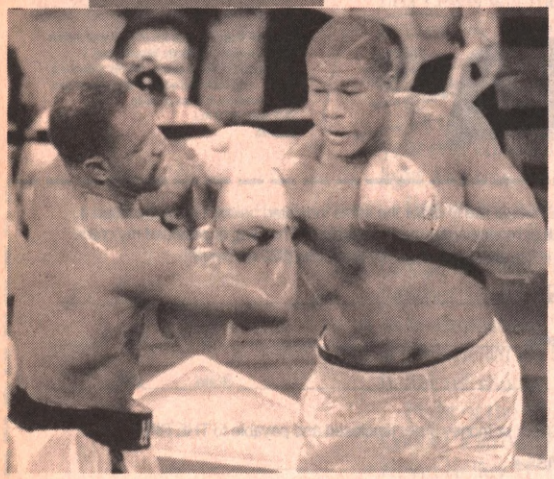
THE HEART OF HOLYFIELD

Loser And Still Champion was the title of a book on Muhammad Ali after "The Greatest" lost to Joe Frazier. The title reflects my feelings toward Evander Holyfield after his title fight loss to Riddick Bowe. Surely, it is now time to give Holyfield credit for what he truly was: a very fine world champion and a credit to professional boxing.
TEPPO K. KAIPAINEN
Gothenburg, Sweden



Holyfield: Gutty in defeat

Hats off to both the new and former heavyweight champions. Riddick Bowe and Evander Holyfield put on a great fight that reminded boxing fans why we watch the sport in the first place. While the winner did everything he had to in order to take the title, Holyfield did not lose that night. Instead, Bowe simply won.
DANIEL WILK
Bayside, NY



Bowe: Powering his way to the title

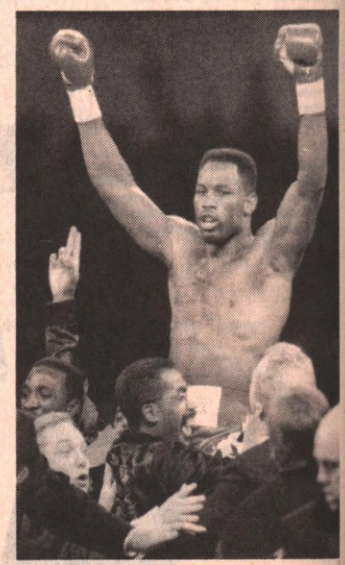
Nothing in Evander Holyfield's title reign became him like his exit. Perhaps Holyfield never should have won the title. Perhaps if Buster Douglas had been in proper condition, he would have done to Holyfield what Riddick Bowe did. Had George Foreman been magically transported back to 1974, he likely would have done to "The Real Deal" what he did to Ken Norton. And Holyfield's fight with Bert Cooper was less of a surprise than it seemed; it was really a fight between two tremendous cruiserweights.

Against Bowe, Holyfield showed as much courage as I have ever seen in a boxing ring. He has the heart of a Rocky Marciano and the physical abilities of a Floyd Patterson. And he's tough enough not to be knocked out. Unfortunately, this rare combination is the prototype for a fighter who, in the words of Rocky Graziano, ends his career "hearin' birdies chirpin' when there ain't no birdies around." Hopefully, Holyfield will avoid that fate.

Holyfield fought like a man who knew history would be judging him. The judgment will be that he did honor to the heavyweight championship.
GREG MARKS
Berkeley, CA

BOWE AND LEWIS

I must voice my anger about how the tough guy from the Brooklyn ghetto, Riddick Bowe, is ducking well-mannered nice guy Lennox Lewis. There have been a lot of quotes about how Bowe wants Lewis "so bad." But when crunch time comes, you know Bowe will be chicken. That's because he and his manager, Rock Newman, know that Lewis will rip the title away.
DAVID WATKINS
Bromborough, England



Lewis: A legitimate British threat

I am sick and tired of the blinkered, parochial American attitudes toward foreign fighters. And I am sick and tired of Riddick Bowe.

Even though Lennox Lewis is a superb boxer with genuine one-punch power, the so-called American experts, almost without exception, picked a one-handed, one-dimensional Razor Ruddock to give him a whupping.

Now it's clear that Lewis is the number-one man—title or no title. Bowe knows this; why else would he sidestep Lewis and forfeit a portion of the crown? Why is he considering a defense against some nobody and not Lewis, as is contracted? Because Lewis will destroy him, and enjoy doing it, that's why.

Bowe can run, but he can't hide forever. The world heavyweight championship is finally on its way to Britain. Maybe next time you'll sit up and take notice of foreign fighters.
MARTIN SUPPLE
Grantham, England ■

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Round One

FIGHTERS OF THE YEAR

On December 7 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, Pernell Whitaker and Riddick Bowe stole the spotlight from Donald Trump and Mayor David Dinkins. At the third annual Mark G. Etess Foundation Fighter of the Year ceremonies, IBF junior welterweight champion Whitaker was honored for his performance in 1991. In a separate presentation, Steve Farhood awarded (then) undisputed heavyweight champion Bowe *The Ring's* championship belt, symbolic of 1992's Fighter of the Year.

Pernell Whitaker with Rachel and Mitch Etess (Mark Etess' daughter and brother)

Also in attendance were a handful of fighters who hope to be 1993's Fighter of the Year, including Iran Barkley, Lennox Lewis, Buddy McGirt, Roy Jones, Bernard Hopkins, Al Cole, and Mike McCallum. Everyone was on his best behavior, but for the record, Bowe refused to have his picture taken with Lewis.

Also honored by the Etess Foundation were ABC boxing analyst Alex Wallau and legendary publicist Irving Rudd.

THE BITTERNESS OF DEFEAT

The way Evander Holyfield sees it, breaking up isn't hard to do. Since he lost the unified heavyweight title to Riddick Bowe, "The Real Deal" has been expressing a sense of disenchantment with his longtime promoter, Dan Duva. The problem, Holyfield says, began on October 31, when Lennox Lewis knocked out Razor Ruddock in London. Moments after Ruddock was counted out, Duva and Holyfield's co-managers, Shelly Finkel and Lou Duva, climbed into the ring and congratulated Lewis. That hurt.

"To see Dan grab Lennox in the ring and be so happy about the guy, that's an uneasy thought," Holyfield told *Newsday*. "I don't want my people behind some other guy."

Holyfield was also upset because Duva had promotional interests in both Lewis and Bowe.

Said Duva: "It's a shame he wants to make excuses for losing . . . There's no question Bowe won the fight. [Holyfield] came out with such dignity and class. And now, he just looks like a crybaby."

As for Holyfield's ring future, he says, "I ain't coming back. I've got no reason to."

Holyfield and Duva during better times

SPLIT DECISION?

There was some elation in the camp of Mike Tyson in December, when two of the jurors who found the former heavyweight champion guilty of raping beauty contestant Desiree Washington said they now believe he deserves a new trial.

Alan Dershowitz, the fighter's attorney, filed an additional appeal because of Washington's alleged pre-trial discussion of possible book and movie deals with a Rhode Island attorney who has since been dismissed by Washington. Dershowitz said that Washington and her parents deliberately withheld information concerning the possibility of their financial gain.

Jurors Rose Pride and Dave Vahle told Philadelphia's WHAT-AM that they were writing letters to the Indiana Court of Appeals urging that Tyson be given a new trial. Pride said she would have been more skeptical if she had known about Washington's alleged book and movie deals. Vahle was more emphatic. "We [the jurors] felt that a man raped a women," he said. "In hindsight, it looks like a woman raped a man."

—Ed Maloney

Brown: Shelved by a detached retina

A VERY GOOD YEAR. NOT!

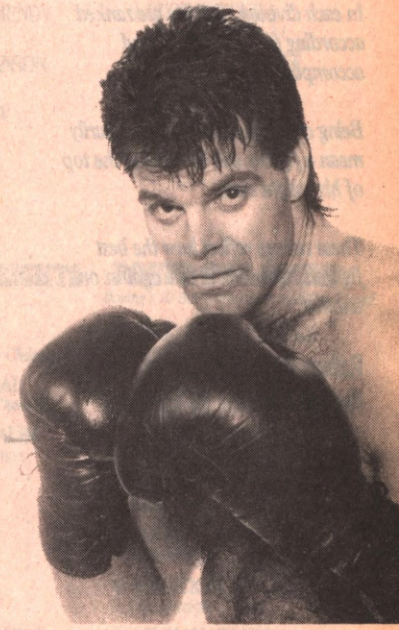
Simon Brown was glad when 1992 finally came to a close. The former WBC welterweight champion spent the first part of the year smarting from a one-sided November 1991 title fight loss to Buddy McGirt. In September, he had to pull out of his challenge of WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris just hours before the bout because of dizziness caused by an inner ear infection. The bout was rescheduled for December, but Brown suffered a detached retina in his left eye during training, and underwent surgery.

"Physically, Simon's doing fine," said his agent, James Cooks. "Psychologically, he's a bit low because of the Norris fight being cancelled. But the doctors have given him the green light to continue boxing. He should be back in the ring by May."

—Ed Maloney

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

WBC super welterweight champion **Terry Norris** is now being trained by **Joe Goossen**. According to the champion, **Abel Sanchez** was dismissed "because of negative stuff between me and Abel and the people in camp. He was going around saying he was the reason I was a world champion. People forget my dad [Orlin Norris Sr.] made me who I am. Abel overshadowed my dad" . . . **Tony Paige** of *The City Sun,* a New York City weekly, was elected president of the Boxing Writers Association of America. He succeeds *Newsday's* Wallace Matthews, who served for four years . . . Heavyweight **Mark Gastineau** was arrested in Lynbrook, New York, on an Arizona warrant for drug charges. The warrant was issued in July, when the former All-Pro football star failed to appear at a court hearing to answer charges that he had violated terms of a drug-counseling program, which was required after he was convicted of drug possession . . . According to the newsletter *Flash,* veteran Nevada referee **Joey Curtis** has been denied a 1993 license after agreeing to plead no-contest to six felony counts brought against him by the Internal Revenue Service. Curtis was charged with filing false returns over three years and underreporting his taxable income by as much as $500,000.



Gastineau: Tackled by legal problems

THE PUNCHLINE

Former lightweight champion Greg Haugen, who will challenge WBC super lightweight titlist Julio Cesar Chavez on February 20: "I've gotten under Chavez' skin. He said he hates me and wants to give me the beating of my life. I'd like that because I've never had a really bad beating." ■

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended
December 20, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 RIDDICK BOWE
Fort Washington, MD *32-0 (WBA/IBF Ch*
2 LENNOX LEWIS
England *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
3 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *28-1*
4 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *30-0*
5 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *48-1*
6 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *71-3*
7 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *27-4-1*
8 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *20-1*
9 TOMMY MORRISON
Merriam, KS *33-1*
10 ALEX GARCIA
San Fernando, CA *29-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *46-1 (WBC Champ)*
2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *33-0-2 (IBF Champ)*
3 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *32-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *20-0*
5 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *43-2-1*
6 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *55-5-1*
7 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *26-2*
8 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *22-1*
9 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *21-1*
10 THOMAS TATE
Houston, TX *26-2*

Sumbu Kalambay

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *33-3 (WBC Champ)*
2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *56-3 (IBF Champ)*
3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *32-5*
4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Seattle, WA *27-0*
5 VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY *17-5*
6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *38-1*
7 GILBERT DELE
France *33-2-1*
8 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *27-1*
9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *34-1*
10 LAURENT BOUDOUANI
France *22-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

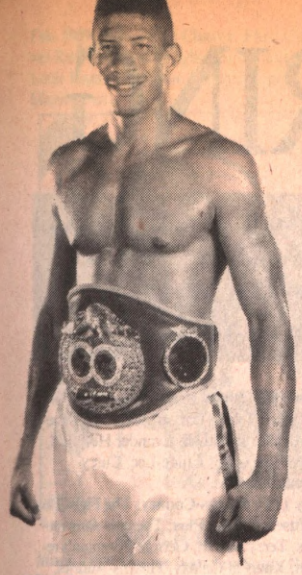
1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *21-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *44-3 (IBF Champ)*
3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *22-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *31-0*
5 JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX *24-0-1*
6 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *30-2-1*
7 RUBEN D. PALACIO
Colombia *45-11-2*
8 LUISITO ESPINOSA
Philippines *29-6*
9 COLIN McMILLAN
England *23-2*
10 EVER BELENO
Colombia *23-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *22-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2 TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY *46-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
3 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *31-1*
4 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico *35-6-3 (WBA Champ)*
5 DUKE McKENZIE
England *33-3*
6 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-2-1*
7 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA *43-5*
8 RUDY ZAVALA
Rosemead, CA *18-1-1*
9 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *34-3-2*
10 JULIO GERVACIO
Puerto Rico *24-3-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *33-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
2 ELIECER JULIO
Colombia *22-0 (WBA Champ)*
3 VICTOR RABANALES
Mexico *32-10-2 (WBC Champ)*
4 JUNIOR JONES
Brooklyn, NY *26-0*
5 JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI
Japan *7-1-1*
6 EDDIE COOK
Las Vegas, NV *18-2*
7 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela *35-3-1*
8 JAVIER LEON
Mexico *38-5-2*
9 RAFAEL DEL VALLE
Puerto Rico *13-0*
10 HAROLD MESTRE
Colombia *15-2*



Alfred Cole

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *37-2 (WBC Champ)*

3 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *21-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *34-3*

5 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *14-2*

6 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *21-3*

7 **ARTHUR WILLIAMS**
Las Vegas, NV *18-1-1*

8 **AKIM TAFER**
France *15-3*

9 **MARCELO FIGUEROA**
Argentina *30-3*

10 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *21-2-1*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *33-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Bismarck, ND *33-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *23-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *16-1*

6 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *31-3*

7 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *19-0*

8 **TIM HILLIE**
Washington, D.C. *15-0*

9 **SAUL MONTANA**
Mexico *17-2*

10 **RANDALL YONKER**
Mobile, AL *28-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *38-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *30-7 (IBF Champ)*

3 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *34-0*

4 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *18-4-2*

5 **NIGEL BENN**
England *34-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *20-0*

7 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *52-3*

8 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *29-5-1*

9 **FRANK LILES**
N. Hollywood, CA *23-1*

10 **FRANK NICOTRA**
France *30-0*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *57-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *28-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *34-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-2-2*

5 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *43-0*

6 **MANNING GALLOWAY**
Columbus, OH *49-11-1*

7 **LUDOVIC PROTO**
France *26-0*

8 **STEPHAN JOHNSON**
Brooklyn, NY *20-4-1*

9 **LUIS GARCIA**
Venezuela *24-2*

10 **LARRY BARNES**
Mount Vernon, NY *26-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *84-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *31-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *51-7-2*

4 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *27-1*

5 **MORRIS EAST**
Philippines *15-2 (WBA Champ)*

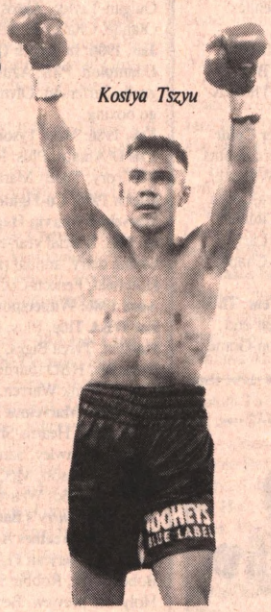
6 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *28-2*

7 **CARLOS GONZALEZ**
Mexico *34-0*

8 **HECTOR LOPEZ**
Tarzana, CA *24-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *32-4-1*

10 **KOSTYA TSZYU**
Australia *6-0*



Kostya Tszyu

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *26-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *41-3-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-4*

4 **RAFAEL RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *34-1*

5 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1-1*

6 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *28-1*

7 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *28-0*

8 **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
France *42-4-2*

9 **LEAVANDER JOHNSON**
Atlantic City, NJ *17-0-1*

10 **SERGEI ARTEMIEV**
Brooklyn, NY *18-1-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *35-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *27-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *27-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

5 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *44-2-2*

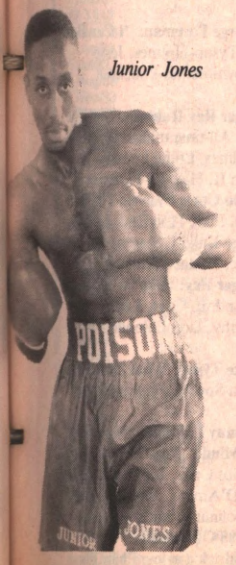
6 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *33-1*

7 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-5*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *31-2-1*

9 **RENATO CORNETT**
Australia *22-1-1*

10 **VICTOR HUGO PAZ**
Argentina *32-1-1*



Junior Jones

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *18-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *20-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *20-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **THALERNGSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *38-3*

5 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

6 **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark *15-0*

7 **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico *21-0*

8 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-5*

9 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *25-2-1*

10 **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
Mexico *21-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Japan *14-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PHICHIT SITHBANGPRACHAN**
Thailand *13-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **AQUILES GUZMAN**
Venezuela *11-5-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-7-1*

5 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-3-2*

6 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-4*

7 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *18-2*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *31-3-1*

9 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *23-1*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *21-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *37-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *26-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *35-1 (WBC Champ)*

4 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *21-3-1*

5 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

6 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

7 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *34-4-3*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *17-1*

9 **SHIRO YAHIRO**
Japan *15-0-1*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTA**
Panama *23-1*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

4 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

5 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

6 **RIDDICK BOWE**
Heavyweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

9 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

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Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror Into The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Olympics, Bill Costello, Davey Moore, Wilfred Benitez, King's heavyweights.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

APRIL 1985

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

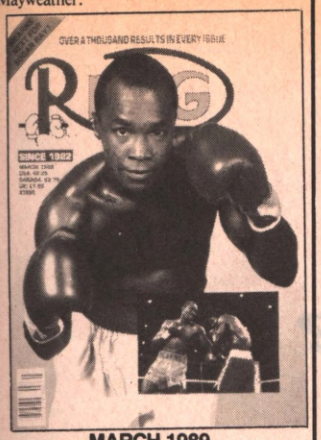
Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.



MARCH 1989

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

Aug. 1990: His Greatness Confirmed . . . Is Julio Cesar Chavez The Greatest Mexican Fighter Ever? Plus: Matthew Saad Muhammad, Sullivan & Tyson, Michael Nunn, Mark Breland, Harold Johnson, Louis-Godoy (color).

Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation? Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

Oct. 1990: Thanks For The Memories: Rocky Graziano, 1922-1990. Plus: Aaron Pryor, Mike Tyson, Napoles-Leonard, A Gathering Of Champions (color).

Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman: Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past? Plus: Marciano-LaStarza, boxing's best chins, Azumah Nelson, Sullivan-Kilrain (color).

Dec. 1990: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Joe Grim, Douglas-Holyfield preview, Marciano-Frazier, Douglas-Tyson (color).

Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules. Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV: Now You'll Pay. Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison, Humberto Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis, heavyweight *Ring* covers (color).

March 1991: Hunger! It Made Evander A Champ. Plus: Charles Murray, Billy Bird, Khaosai Galaxy, Armstrong-Duran, computer flyweight tournament, Sonny Liston (color).

April 1991: Julio Cesar Chavez—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Mike Tyson, Wilfred Benitez, Pedro Decima, computer bantamweight tournament.

May 1991: Ali-Frazier I: 20 Years Later, Still The Fight Of The Century. Plus: Hometown heroes, George Costner, Galindez-Saad Muhammad, Tony Canzoneri, computer featherweight tournament, Ali-Frazier pinup.

June 1991: Pain, Frustration, Confidence, And Hope: Meldrick Taylor's Life After Chavez. Plus: Holyfield-Foreman preview, Norris-Leonard, Freddie Steele, computer lightweight tournament, Tiger-Hearns, Sugar Ray Leonard (color).

July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

Aug. 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

Oct. 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

Nov. 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

Dec. 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

Jan. 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

March 1992: Turning Heads—Ray Mercer Makes His Statement To The Heavyweights. Plus: Lou Nova, 1980 Olympic team, boxing cards, Rodrigo Valdes, *Ring's* New Year's wish, Joe Louis-Muhammad Ali, Jack Dempsey (color).

April 1992: Is Evander Holyfield Tough Enough To Stay On Top? Plus: Buddy McGirt, George Foreman, Toney-McCallum, referees, Marvin Hart, Al Hostak, Eusebio Pedroza-Salvador Sanchez, Ketchel-Johnson (color).

May 1992: Fighter Of The Year: James Toney. Plus: Roy Jones, Rocky Graziano, longest title reigns, Myung Woo Huh & Khaosai Galaxy, James Warring, Billy Soose, Duran-Chavez, Marvin Hagler (color).

June 1992: After Mike Tyson's Conviction: What Now? Plus: Buck Smith, Billy Graham, Holmes-Mercer, Enrique Pinder & Hilario Zapata, Toney-Tiberi, Foreman-Liston, Tyson (color).

July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot? Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

Aug. 1992: Larry Holmes On The Big Fight: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There." Plus: Iran Barkley, Carnival of Champions, Oscar De La Hoya, Haugen-Mancini, Foreman-Stewart, Harry Greb, Gene Tunney (color).

Sept. 1992: Julio Cesar Chavez: Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight The Legends? Plus: Bobby Czyz, Genaro Hernandez & Nicky Acevedo, alternate careers, Norris-Taylor, Tommy Gibbons, Sugar Ray Robinson (color).

Oct. 1992: The Supreme Dream: The Heavyweight Hopes Of The Heavyweight Hopefuls. Plus: Kevin Kelley, All-Time Top 10: South Africa, Meldrick Taylor, Sharmba Mitchell, Bob Foster, Eder Jofre, Max Baer (color).

Nov. 1992: Who'll Stop The Reign? Is Riddick Bowe The Next Heavyweight Champion? Plus: Mike Tyson, Tommy Morrison, Chavez-Camacho preview, All-Time Top 10: Australia, Tracy Patterson, Pat Barrett, Knockout Brown, Corbett-Sullivan (color).

Dec. 1992: Foreman vs. Morrison: Should This Fight Happen . . . Will You Watch It? Plus: Ruddock-Lewis preview, Julian Jackson, Al Cole, Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey Museum, Randolph Turpin, Olympic recap, Floyd Patterson (color).

Jan. 1993: Slammin' n' Jammin'—Bowe & Holyfield Go One On One. Plus: The State Of The Game, Gene Fullmer, Chavez-Camacho, Sullivan & Fitzsimmons, Bigfoot Martin, Carmen Basilio (color).

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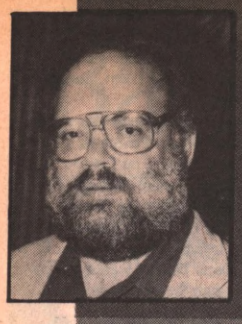


Katz Scan

By Michael Katz

WHO DA MAN?

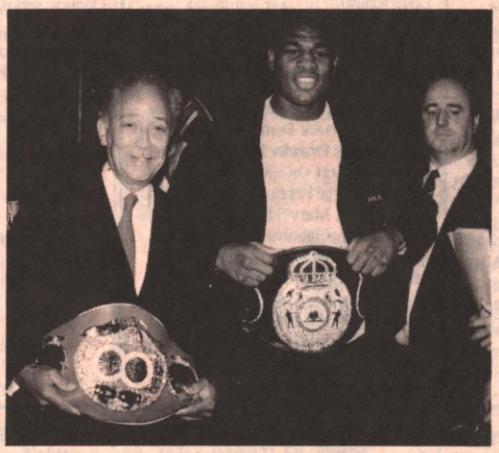
Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain, especially if it's Jose Sulaiman, the Lizard of Oz. But Riddick Bowe lost the *undisputed* heavyweight championship of the world by not agreeing to fight Lennox Lewis.

This has nothing to do with alphabets.

It has nothing to do with business as usual, nothing to do with a sly plot to build up to a 1994 megafight after first shedding any options owed to Dan Duva.

It has nothing to do with public opinion. There is, after all, something to the idea of "the people's champion."

A fighter can win every belt in his division. All alphabet kings can pay homage. He could have won his title in the ring, like a good little boy. But it still doesn't mean he's The Man. He's not The Man until he beats all other Men out there. He's certainly not The Man if it looks like he's ducking other Men.



Bowe shows off his hardware with New York City Mayor David Dinkins. But where's the WBC title belt?

Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, can argue all he wants about Lewis claiming a "bastard title." Bowe can argue, "I beat the man who beat the man who beat The Man—so what does that make me? The Man."

The truth is, public acceptance is something else entirely. The public would not dispute the alphabets if there was an undisputed lightweight or cruiserweight champion. But a heavyweight champion has a public trust—he must be willing to fight all bona fide challengers. Now.

And we don't have to go back any further than Evander Holyfield, who won the "undisputed" title from Buster Douglas, who had won it from Tyson, who *was* The Man.

Holyfield was accepted by the WBC, WBA, IBF, and XYZ. And he was accepted by boxing fans. But only up to a point. "The Real Deal" couldn't be The Real Man until he beat The Man.

It wasn't Holyfield's fault Tyson hurt his ribs or was convicted of rape. Still, he didn't beat The Man. This may be hard to believe, but sometimes boxing is unfair. Holyfield was perceived as someone who terrorized 42-year-old men, and not that convincingly. Fair? Ezzard Charles was not accepted as champion because he did not beat The Man—even though The Man in his case, Joe Louis, had retired. Then, after he beat The Comebacking Man, Charles encountered public wrath. After all, when he beat Louis, he was beating a hero.

Joe Frazier won the title engraved by the New York State Athletic Commission, and then "unified" it by beating the winner of a WBA tournament, Jimmy Ellis. But he wasn't recognized as The Man until he beat The Man who had been in exile. Sometimes, you can't fool the public.

The Great Debate of whether Bowe and Lewis should meet right away—Duva, more than anyone else, is to blame for advertising Holyfield-Bowe and Lewis-Razor Ruddock as a Final Four—was argued mostly by the bean counters. Which way do they make more money? Maximize the revenues, minimize the risk. Dennis Rappa-

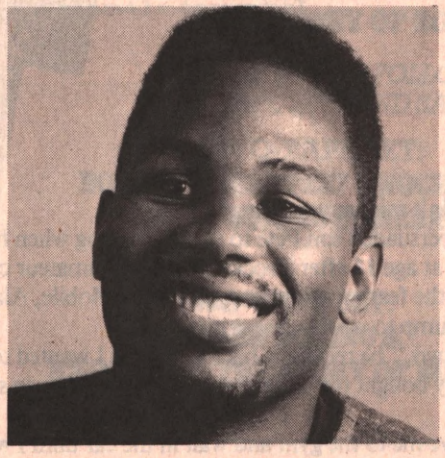
port's philosophy has taken hold in boxing.

Obviously, any new champion would like to cash in once or twice before taking a high-risk challenge. Nobody better exemplified this than Holyfield, who wound up making about $80-million in his career, more than half of which came in two fights against old men, George Foreman and Larry Holmes.

Newman was probably very correct in thinking that Bowe-Lewis, by far the best heavyweight matchup out there, was still slightly undercooked. A year from now the world will be panting for it, figured Bowe's wily manager. I will not argue with such perception.

Nor do I really think that Lewis has a telling point in arguing that Bowe owed him first crack, otherwise he would not have agreed to fight the dangerous if limited Ruddock. Lewis knew, despite Duva's advertising, what Bowe would do if he beat Holyfield—a possibility the English camp seems to have overlooked in their calculations. No, the Lewis people knew that Bowe's only penalty for failing to meet the Lewis-Ruddock winner was forfeiture of the WBC slice of the crown (without recourse to the courts).

But they were willing to go ahead with the Ruddock match because (1) Lewis is afraid of no man, and (2) even if Bowe defeated Holyfield, and then refused to go ahead with the Final Four concept, they would be awarded the WBC title, the same way Ken Norton had in 1978. Remember, Leon Spinks had signed paper, as did Ali, that the winner of their fight would grant Norton the next show, which Norton had earned by beating Jimmy Young in an eliminator. When Spinks scored the upset and naturally chose to give Ali a rematch for a lot more money, the WBC named Norton champion retroactively. Norton was a deserving mandatory challenger. But so was Bowe—who was mandatory according to the WBA and IBF, and would have been in the WBC had it not been for some hanky-panky maneuverings of the ratings by Sulaiman and his buddy Don King, who moved Bowe behind Ruddock. No, Bowe should have been the mandatory challenger all along, and, as such, should have had a year to make voluntary defenses before meeting the new number one, Lewis.



Lennox Lewis won the WBC heavyweight title the same way Ken Norton did—retroactively.

And Newman is probably right, at least in a business sense, to get in as many big fights as he can (he would love Foreman or Tommy Morrison, obviously) before meeting Lewis.

But all this aside, he probably should have opted for the Lewis fight first. This is not only the purist talking, who would like all titles as undisputed as motherhood and apple pie. Larry Merchant, HBO's astute commentator, supplied the economic backbone. Merchant's worst-case scenario for Bowe would have been to suffer such a terrible defeat that he would have been shamed into retirement—with a total of $25-million from consecutive Holyfield and Lewis fights. A defeat in a competitive fight would have meant $25-million and plenty for the inevitable rematch.

And a victory would have established Bowe as The Man, undisputedly. Like Ali and Tyson, he would have been able to say, "Get the best guys out there, line 'em up, and I'll knock 'em down." That kind of public acceptance, Merchant argued, would translate into perhaps double and triple the purses Bowe would receive for the so-called lesser defenses. When The Man fights, everyone watches.

As it is, we will now get an uninterrupted stream of transatlantic chicken droppings—each side accusing the other of fowl play. Don't believe the hype. There is no one Bowe would rather fight than Lewis, his 1988 Olympics final conqueror. The same for Lewis. But in the meantime, as the Englishman says, "We'll both do all right for ourselves."

This corner will continue to recognize Bowe as the *real* champion—linear descent and all that. But he *must* face Lewis within a reasonable time. The one real contribution of the alphabets is that champions cannot duck mandatory challengers, and if the WBA and IBF were smart, which they're not, they would refuse to acknowledge the WBC's lead and continue to rank Lewis number one, thereby insuring the big fight will take place sometime early in 1994.

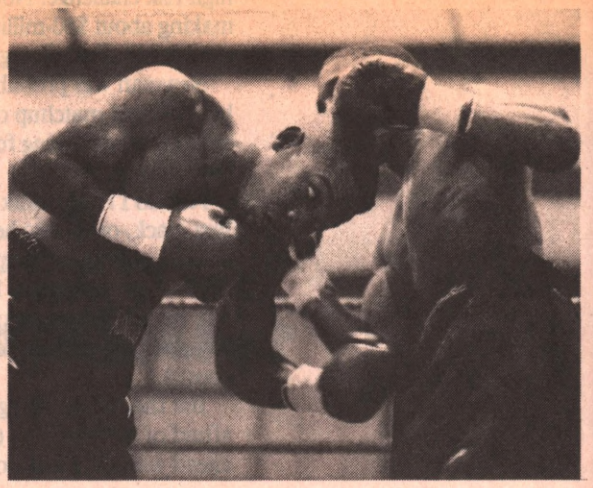
Then, and only then, will we know who The Best Man is.

Of course he'll have to prove it all over again whenever that Other Man gets out of prison in Indiana. ■

Pete Taliaferro

Featherweight

By Tommy Deas



Taliaferro pounds on Sylvester Kennon

Linda Taliaferro didn't raise any quitters.

It was she who persuaded son Pete to stick to boxing when he wanted to throw in the towel at age 11 after a rocky start to his amateur career.

Ten years later, the featherweight prospect from Mobile, Alabama, seems poised to make a jump to world-class status.

"I lost the first two," he recalls of his start, "and I wanted to quit. My mother had already bought my equipment and everything, so she wouldn't let me.

"She would drive me to the gym and wait in the car until I went in the door to make sure I went. She would take me on weekends to make sure I did my running. After I won my first trophy, quitting was the farthest thing on my mind."

Taliaferro made a move in 1992 with four significant victories. He outpointed former National Golden Gloves champion John West and former NABF titlist Darryl Pinckney before stopping one-time IBF bantamweight king Kelvin Seabrooks. In November, Taliaferro closed out his year by scoring a one-sided decision over Canada's Barrington Francis.

"It's been like going to school," he says. "These guys teach me things. I had to look at myself and realize I should be on that upper level with these guys."

A smooth counterpuncher with natural head and body movement, Taliaferro uses his skills to create openings and angles. Just when an opponent seems lulled to sleep, he lashes out with quick flurries that land with unerring accuracy.

"My style is like a boxer and a puncher," he says. "I mostly box because that's what I'm told to do to stay on the safe side. I try to prove I can box on the inside just as good. I know I can get my punches off and get out, but they don't want me to do that."

"They" is manager/trainer Eddie Surrett, who most recently guided light heavyweight Randall Yonker into title contention. Surrett reports that Taliaferro is poised to continue his progress.

"I want to try and step the heat up a little more," he says. "You don't find too many people that put a guy in with competition like we have when they're ready to move him. But Pete doesn't get hit, he doesn't ever get bruised. When you've got a guy like that, you can do things."

Taliaferro hooked up with Surrett as an amateur after taking a three-year hiatus when Mobile's amateur program shut down. He had already shown his mettle by graduating to higher levels after losing four of his first six bouts. He went on to lose only six bouts in seven years, winning 60 of 70 contests before turning pro. *(Continued on page 70)*

PRO RECORD

	1990	
Oct. 14	Scottie Phillips, Montgomery, AL	KO 3
Nov. 13	Jimmy Mitchell, Mobile, AL	KO 3
	1991	
Jan. 14	Darrin Neal, Mobile	KO 5
March 2	Tommy Cannette, Mobile	KO 3
March 30	Jerry Strickland, Mobile	KO 3
April 25	Amos Cowart, Mobile	KO 1
May 16	Lupe Lopez, Jacksonville, FL	W 8
June 10	Eddie Richardson, Mobile	KO 1
Aug. 5	Billy Thomas, Mobile	KO 1
Sept. 24	Jerome Brooks, Mobile	KO 1
Oct. 30	Mark Smith, Mobile	L 10
	1992	
Jan. 13	John West, Mobile	W 8
March 16	Jarad Francis, Mobile	KO 1
May 4	Brian Robinson, Mobile	KO 3
June 15	Jose Cruz, Mobile	KO 2
Aug. 14	Bruce Nuby, Mobile	W 8
Sept. 18	Darryl Pinckney, Jacksonville	W 8
Oct. 3	Kelvin Seabrooks, Biloxi, MS	KO 8
Nov. 10	Sylvester Kennon, Mobile	KO 2
Nov. 28	Barrington Francis, Biloxi	W 12

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
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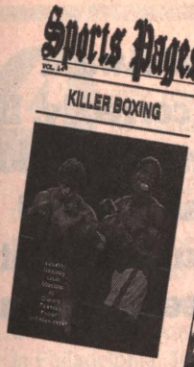

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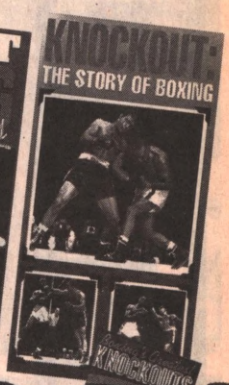

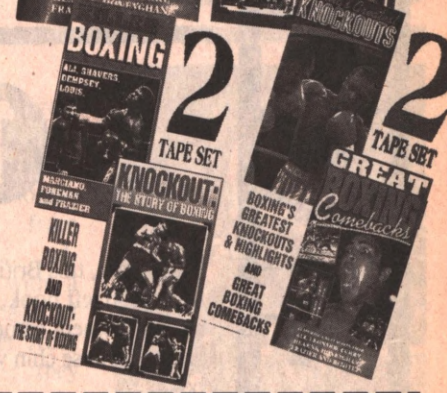

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1

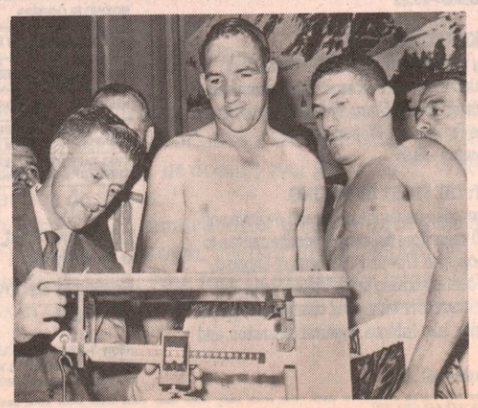
Tough guy, this British middleweight. Real good left hook, too. Too bad that his big moment came against Marvin Hagler, whose chin was one of the best.

2

This month we feature Muhammad Ali with yet another former world champion. If you think Ali's first victory over Sonny Liston was an upset, you should've seen the odds before this old-timer dethroned Max Baer.

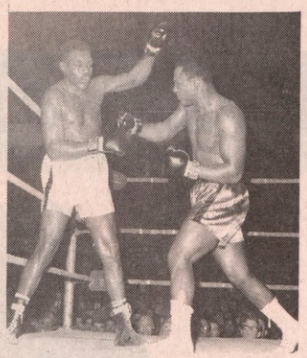
3

Checking the scale are NBA middleweight champion Gene Fullmer, his challenger, and the challenger's handler, Angelo Dundee (far right). Fullmer made the weight, then kept the crown on points. Name his opponent.



4

We always quiz you on Muhammad Ali, so here's some equal time for Joe Frazier. Before "Smokin' Joe" won the title, he scored a sixth-round stoppage over a veteran contender in Philadelphia. It was Joe's 14th pro bout.



5

These were surely two of the most charismatic fighters in the history of the lighter weights. They clashed in December 1975, with the featherweight on the left winning by kayo.

6

Speaking of West Coast favorites, this former (and future) lightweight champion *won* the fight, an August 1970 10-rounder vs. Sugar Ramos.

7

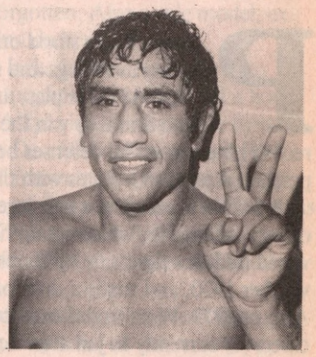
In August 1986, Mike Tyson, only three months away from making history, advanced to 26-0 with a 10th-round stoppage of a fringe contender from Cuba. The bigger they are . . .

8

Forget the fighters and look at the fans. At the Mike Tyson-Michael Spinks superfight in June 1988, two of Hollywood's most notorious lady-killers seemed exhilarated by the undercard. We're sure you'll pick them out.

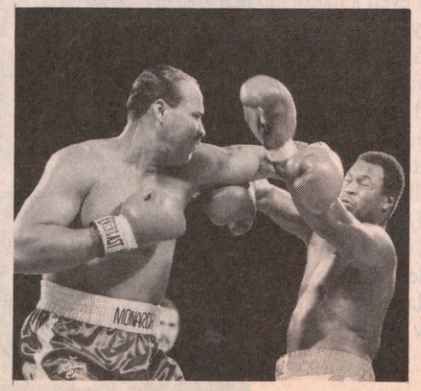
9

The "V" is for Very Frustrated. In the '70s, this Argentine light heavyweight was one of the best fighters to never win a world championship. He failed in three title tries.



10

Is it too soon for Larry Holmes nostalgia? In March 1985, Holmes survived a rocky start and kept the IBF title by scoring a 10th-round TKO over a contender who nickname came from his hero Popeye.

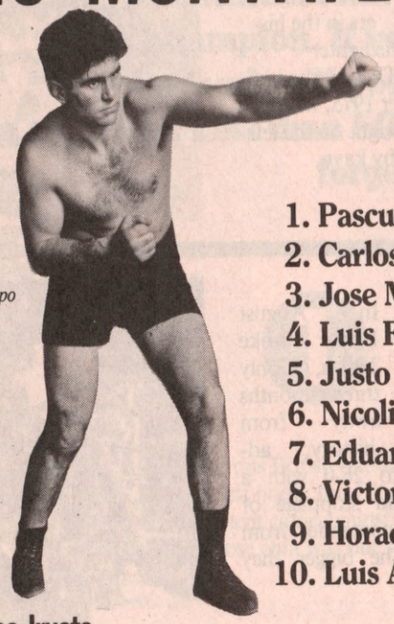


ANSWERS:

10) David Bey
9) Jorge Ahumada
8) Jack Nicholson & Warren Beatty
6) Mando Ramos; 7) Nino Ribalta
5) Danny Lopez & Ruben Olivares;
3) Florentino Fernandez; 4) Doug Jones;
1) Tony Sibson; 2) Jim Braddock;

The Best Of A Nation

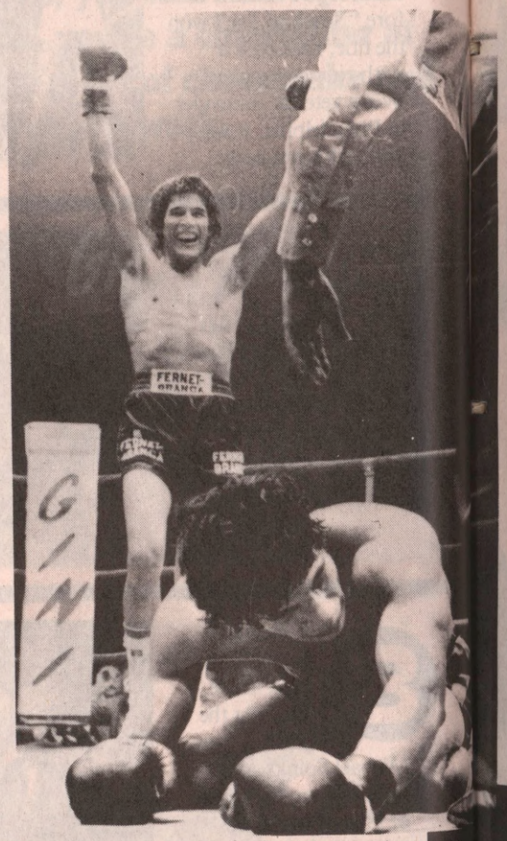
THIS MONTH: ARGENTINA



Luis Angel Firpo

1. Pascual Perez
2. Carlos Monzon
3. Jose Maria Gatica
4. Luis Federico Thompson
5. Justo Suarez
6. Nicolino Locche
7. Eduardo Lausse
8. Victor Galindez
9. Horacio Accavallo
10. Luis Angel Firpo

By Carlos Irusta



Carlos Monzon finishes Gratien Tonna in round five (above). Pascual Perez defends the flyweight crown vs. Dommy Ursua (right). Eduardo Lausse strikes during his classic win over Ralph "Tiger" Jones (below).

Pascual Perez stood only 5', but was a complete boxer, featuring lively legs and stone hands. He won a gold medal at the 1948 Olympics, and in November 1954, outpointed Yoshio Shirai to win the world flyweight title. He made a record nine successful defenses before being dethroned by Pone Kingpetch in April 1960. Rates with the greatest 112-pounders of all-time.

● **Carlos Monzon** is a true legend. Tall, strong, and cool, he scored often with his jab, which set up his booming straight right. He won the world middleweight title by shocking Nino Benvenuti (KO 12) in November 1970, and made a division-record 14 defenses before retiring in August 1977. Went undefeated over the last 13 years and 81 bouts of his career. Is currently in jail after being convicted of murdering his former lover.

● **Jose Maria Gatica** was never a world champion, or even a national champion. But to the fans of his homeland, the flamboyant lightweight, a close friend of Juan and Eva Peron, was a hero. His fights, including his famous six-bout series with Alfredo Prada, were always tremendous battles. In a January 1951 non-title bout, he was kayoed by world champion Ike Williams. Died in an auto accident at age 38.

● **Luis Federico Thompson** was born in Panama, but moved to Argentina in 1952 and became one of the country's slickest fighters. His career turned in 1957, when he outfinessed big puncher Rocky Rivero at Luna Park. He kayoed world champion Don Jordan in a December 1959 non-title bout, but failed in the fight that counted, a December 1960 points loss to Jordan's successor, Benny Paret. Argentine fans still talk about how much Thompson bled from a cut on his mouth in that fight.

Who was the best British fighter of all-time? The best Mexican? The best Japanese? The debate will rage forever. In an attempt to fuel the fire, or at least offer some perspective, *The Ring* has asked several of its correspondents to compile their personal top-10 lists.

Victor Galindez

● **Justo Suarez** was Argentina's second boxing hero, following Luis Angel Firpo. A tremendous brawler, he won the national lightweight crown and, with Julio Mocoroa, engaged in the country's first great ring rivalry. Was kayoed by the great Billy Petrolle in June 1931. Died of tuberculosis at age 29.

● **Nicolino Locche** was among the most charismatic boxers in Argentine history. Nicknamed "The Untouchable" because of his awkward but highly effective defensive style. Won the world junior welterweight title by stopping Paul Fujii in December 1968. Made five defenses—all in Buenos Aires—before losing to Peppermint Frazer in March 1972. Fought 10 world champions. Scored only 14 kayos in 136 career bouts.

● **Eduardo Lausse** symbolized Argentine boxing in the '50s. He was successful both at home and in the USA, where he lost only twice in 15 bouts. Nicknamed "Kayo" because of his tremendous punch, the middleweight was a national and South American champion. His bloody victory over Ralph "Tiger" Jones will never be forgotten. Also a role model, exemplifying honesty and dedication.

● **Victor Galindez** lacked classic skills, but was strong as a bull, and fought with the heart of a lion. Won the vacant WBA light heavyweight title by stopping Len Hutchins in December 1974 at Luna Park. Made 10 successful defenses before losing a bloody battle to Mike Rossman. Regained the crown from his archrival in April 1979, but was halted by Marvin Johnson one fight later. Died in an auto racing crash at age 31.

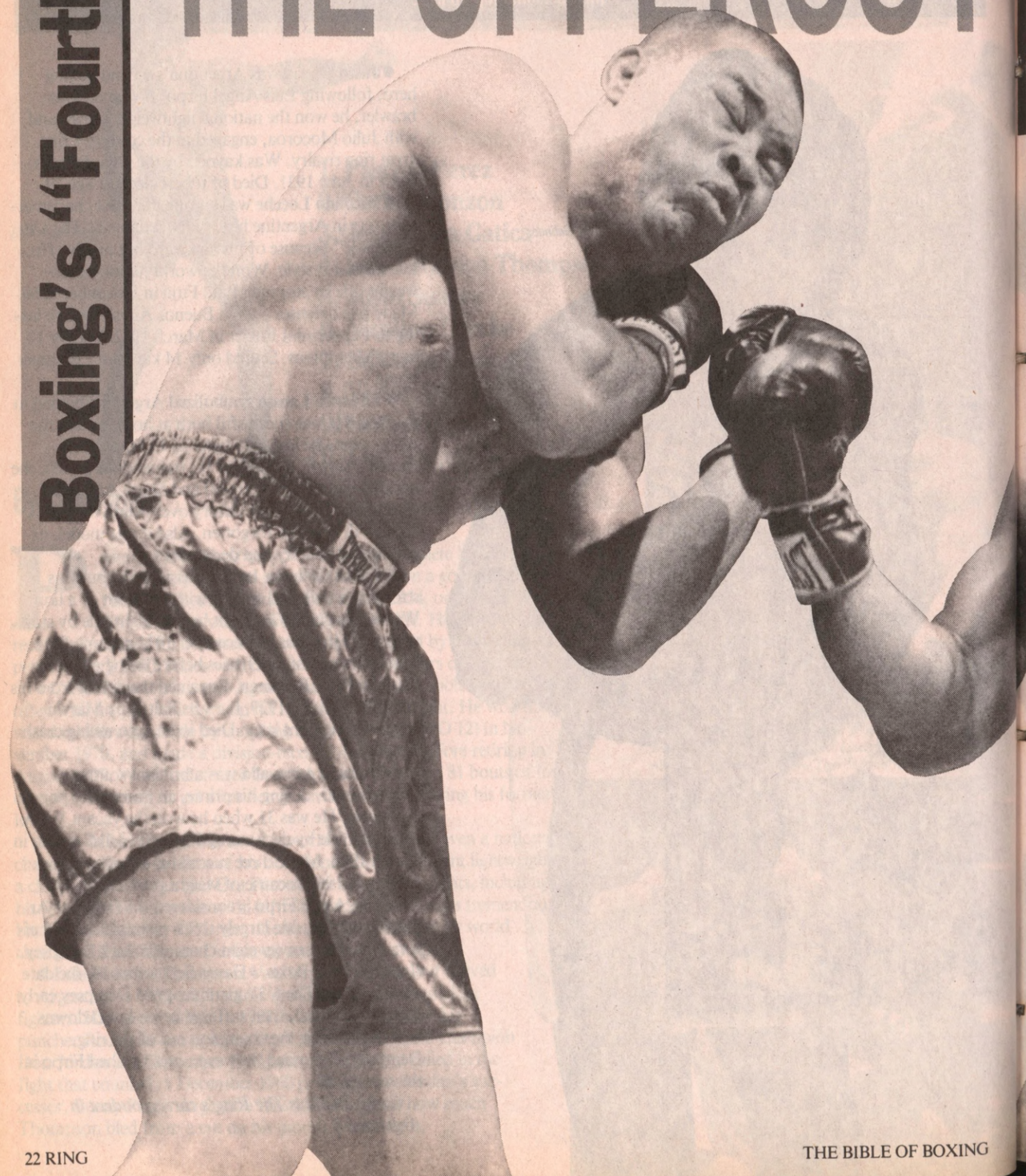
● **Horacio Accavallo** was a brilliant southpaw strategist and, during his prime, an immensely popular fighter. He was 31 when he won the vacant WBA flyweight title by decisioning Katsuyoshi Takayama in March 1966. Made three successful defenses before retiring in 1968 because of weight problems.

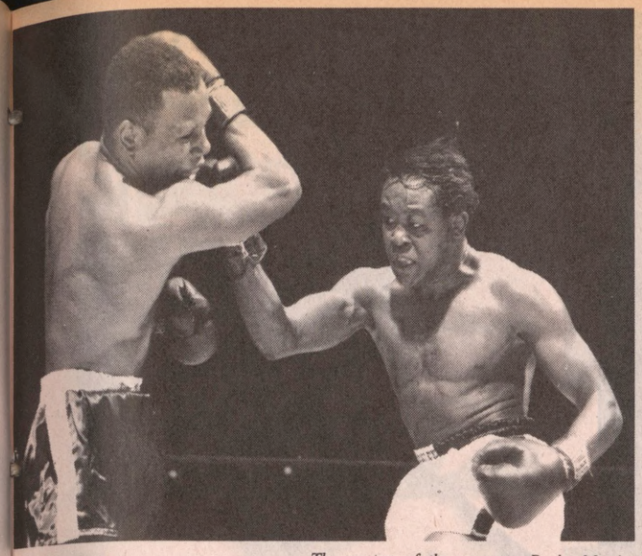
● **Luis Angel Firpo** is considered the father of Argentine boxing, due largely to his memorable 1923 effort vs. world heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey. (In Argentina, Boxer's Day is September 14, the date of that fight.) The 6'3" giant dropped Dempsey early in the first round, then suffered seven knockdowns before knocking the champion out of the ring. Dempsey rebounded, however, and finished Firpo in the second. ■

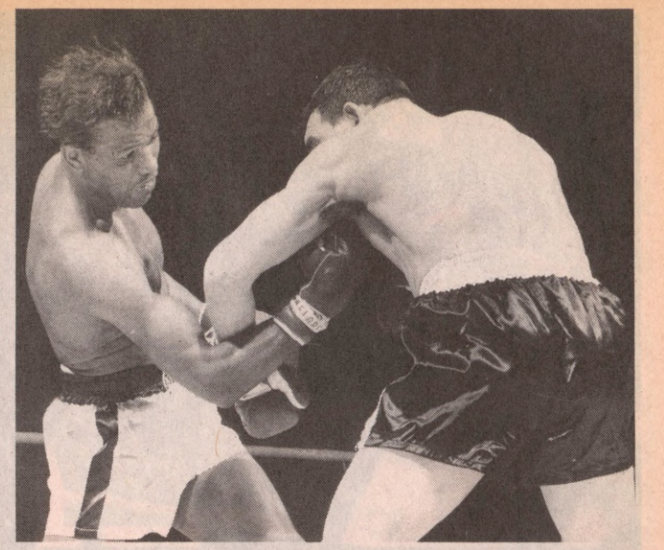
Carlos Irusta is The Ring's correspondent in Argentina.

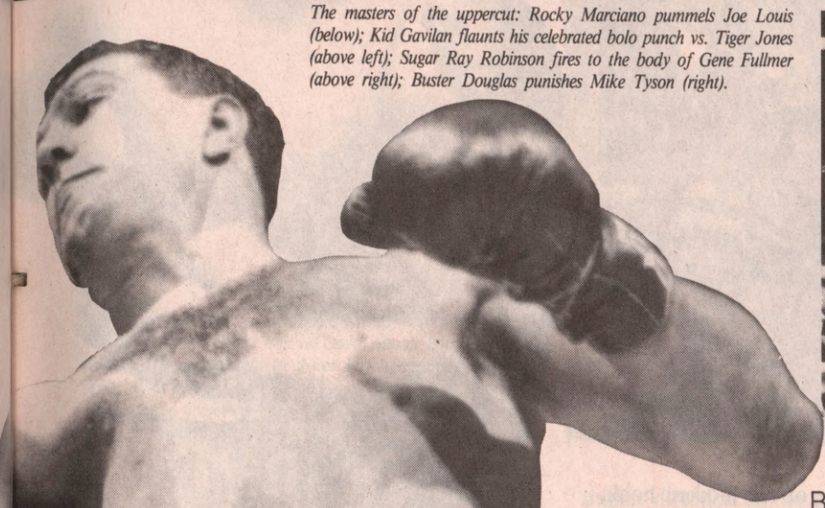
Boxing's "Fourth Punch"

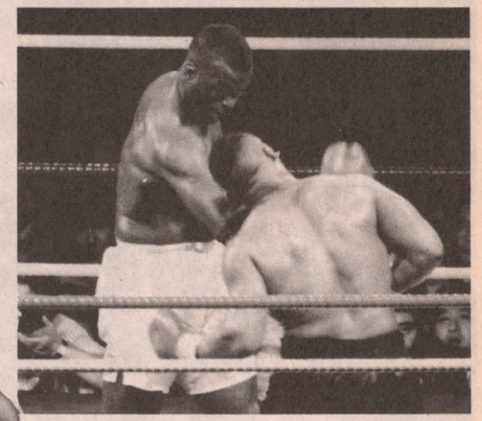
DON'T UNDERCUT THE UPPERCUT











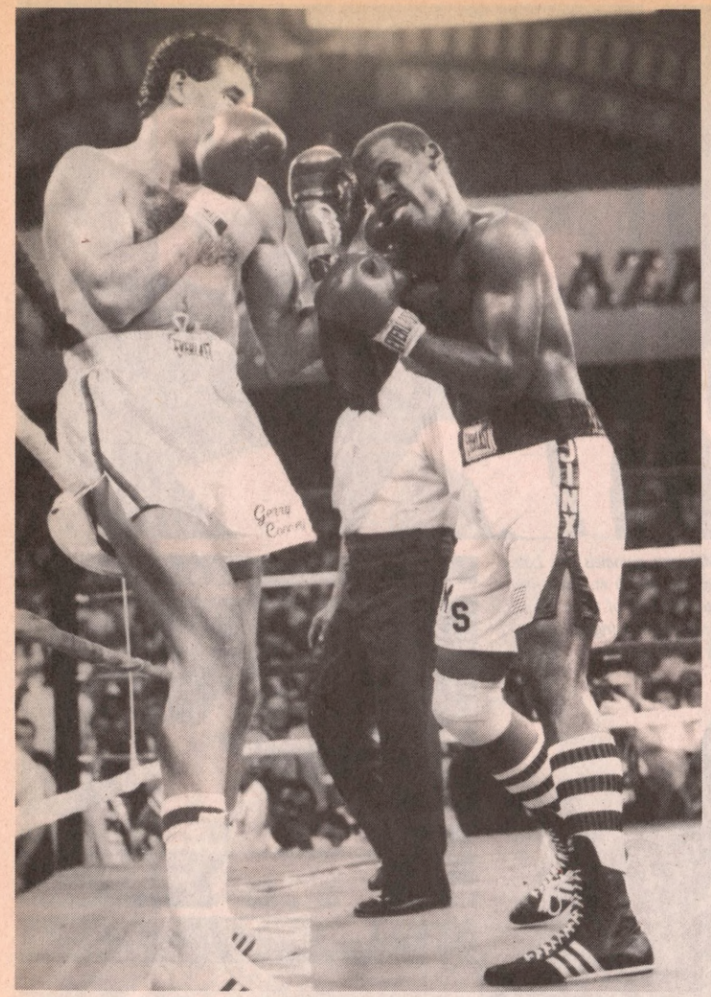
The masters of the uppercut: Rocky Marciano pummels Joe Louis (below); Kid Gavilan flaunts his celebrated bolo punch vs. Tiger Jones (above left); Sugar Ray Robinson fires to the body of Gene Fullmer (above right); Buster Douglas punishes Mike Tyson (right).

By Alan Shelton

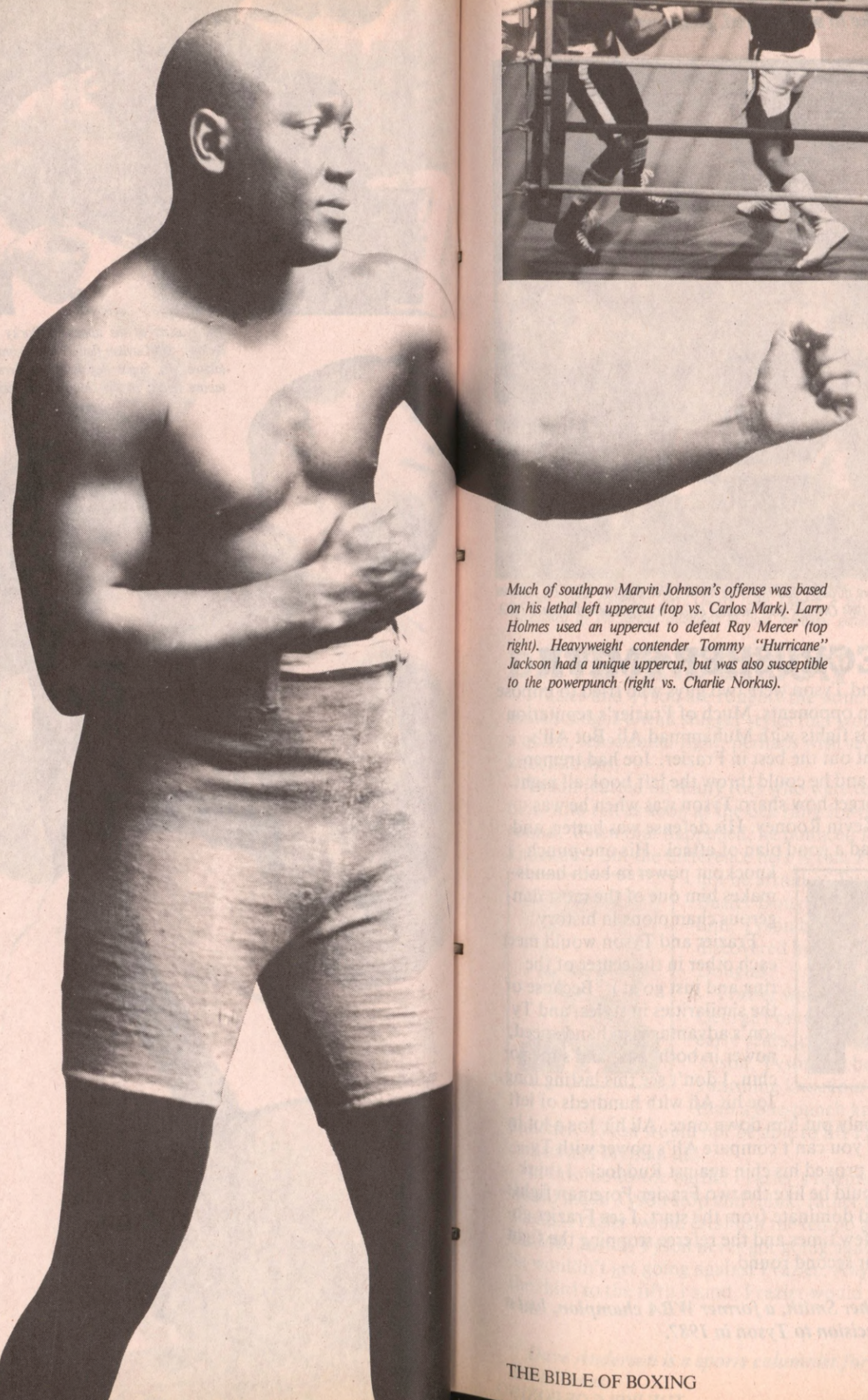
When the punch lands cleanly, to the bottom of the chin or the tip of the nose, the opponent's head snaps violently upward. His eyes often roll, and he temporarily loses his balance . . .

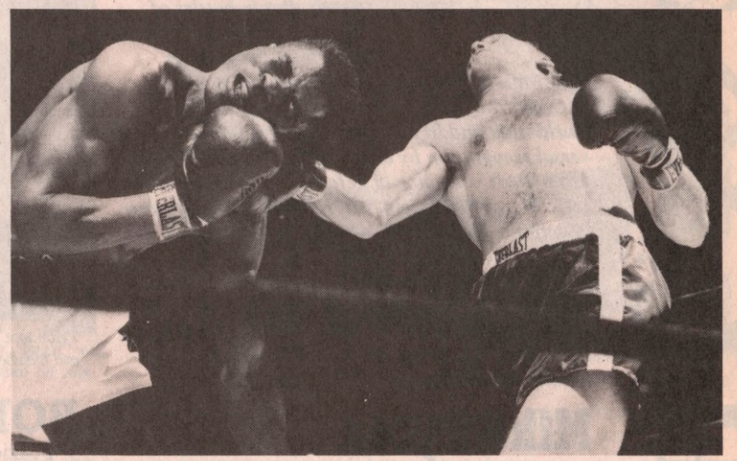
We've read countless times of the ramrod jab, the sweeping hook, and the straight right cross. But what adjective precedes the uppercut? Underused and underappreciated, the uppercut remains one of the four basic punches in the boxer's arsenal. Almost 40 years ago, sports columnist Joe Williams described it thusly: "Uppercuts, you may be interested to know, come in pairs, too. Right and left. They can be employed with equal facility with either hand because they are in-close punches, and the firing range is the same in length for both. The uppercut is not easy to defend against, especially when aimed at the jaw, because it travels upward, inside the opponent's guard, and is the only punch in boxing styled to take such a course."

It is just this different course of travel that makes the uppercut unique. Observing a jab, one can see how it developed from an unrefined straight punch. Watching a hook being thrown, one can easily recognize it as having descended from the crude roundhouse swing. The uppercut, however, seem to have no ancestor in pre-boxing fist-fighting.



Before losing to Michael Spinks, Gerry Cooney landed a smashing uppercut (left). The Ring's Nat Fleischer ranked Jack Johnson (below) as having the best uppercut of all-time.





Much of southpaw Marvin Johnson's offense was based on his lethal left uppercut (top vs. Carlos Mark). Larry Holmes used an uppercut to defeat Ray Mercer (top right). Heavyweight contender Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson had a unique uppercut, but was also susceptible to the powerpunch (right vs. Charlie Norkus).

The uppercut actually pre-dates the existence of the modern hook, whose invention was attributed to "Gentleman" Jim Corbett in the late-1800s. The uppercut was born in bareknuckle England at the start of the 1800s. Its inventor was Sam Elias, known today as "Dutch Sam," and referred to as "The Terrible Jew" in the anti-Semetic England of his day.

A disciple of the first Jewish champion, Daniel Mendoza, Elias was born in 1775 and had his first recorded bout in 1801. Though standing 5'6" and weighing only 135 pounds, he competed as a heavyweight. In a career spanning 13 years, Elias met England's best and has been immortalized ever since by boxing writers spanning Pierce Egan to *The Ring* founder Nat Fleischer.

Fleischer himself was a keen observer of the uppercut. In his 1958 autobiography *50 Years At Ringside,* he named Jack Johnson as possessing the greatest upppercut of all-time. In another listing published after Fleischer's death in 1972, however, he listed the three best uppercuts as 1) Billy Papke, the legendary middleweight champion and archrival of Stanley Ketchel, 2) Jim Driscoll, the great British featherweight of the early-20th century, and 3) welterweight great Kid Gavilan.

In ranking Gavilan, however, Fleischer was slightly off-target. What Gavilan threw was a bolo punch, which, though it travels in a similar direction as the uppercut, is as different from that punch as a wild swing is from a hook. While the uppercut incorporates the body into the punch, bringing great leverage and, thus, power into play, the bolo punch is usually an arm punch, thrown without the body and relying on only the arm for power. Thus, while Gavilan's bolo was flashy and eye-catching, it was not a power punch. In addition, the uppercut is an inside punch; its use is for close quarters and infighting. In contrast, the bolo punch is also used at long range, where its wide range of motion can be given full play.

Difficult situations often require very specific solutions. In boxing, this has translated into the uppercut becoming a key punch.

In 1935, Joe Louis was the fastest rising star in the heavyweight division. In December of that year, the future champion was matched with ironman Paolino Uzcudun. It was a given that Louis would win. The question was whether he'd be the first man to knock out the rugged Basque. Powerpunchers like Max Baer and Max Schmeling had failed to accomplish the feat. Uzcudun had an iron jaw, which was complemented by his strange defense—both arms wrapped around his lowered head. Very awkward, but very effective. Realizing straight and circular punches could be blocked by this defense, Louis' trainer, Jack Blackburn, devised an offense centered around penetrat-

(Continued on page 67)

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Joe Frazier

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Career: 1965-1976; 1981
32-4-1 with 27 kayos

Winging his left hook with abandon and ferocity, Frazier was a typical Philadelphia fighter. He loved to fight chest to chest, bang the body, and engage in battles of attrition. At 5'11½", "Smokin' Joe" usually gave away height and reach. But in battles of heart, he was the ultimate warrior.

In March 1968, Frazier stopped Buster Mathis (KO 11) to win the New York State-recognized world title, and in February 1970, he gained universal recognition by crushing Jimmy Ellis (KO 5). His biggest win came in defense of the title, a historic March 1971 victory over comebacking former champion Muhammad Ali (W 15).

Frazier defended the title four times before being stopped by George Foreman (KO by 2) in January 1973. He fought Ali twice more, losing by 12-round decision in 1974 and by 14th-round stoppage in the "Thrilla In Manila" in 1975. He remains among the most popular champions in history.

Mike Tyson

Catskill, New York
Career: 1985-1991
41-1 with 36 kayos

Boxing behind the peek-a-boo defense taught by his mentor, Cus D'Amato, the 5'11" Tyson smothered his foes with an overwhelming combination of power and hand speed. His intensity was reminiscent of a young Jack Dempsey.

In November 1986, Tyson, 20, became the youngest fighter to win a portion of the heavyweight title when he annihilated WBC champion Trevor Berbick (KO 2). He added the WBA crown in March 1987 (W 12 Bonecrusher Smith), and, five months later, became the first unified heavyweight titlist since Leon Spinks when he topped IBF king Tony Tucker (W 12).

Tyson proceeded to blow out, among others, Tyrell Biggs, Larry Holmes, and Michael Spinks. He lost the title in February 1990, suffering a shocking 10th-round kayo at the hands of Buster Douglas.

"Iron Mike" rebounded to twice defeat Razor Ruddock, but in February 1992, he was convicted of rape. He is currently serving a six-year jail sentence in Indiana.

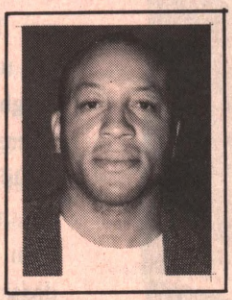
Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.

Tyson tore up, tore through, and then tore down Tyrell Biggs in 1987. He battered and bloodied the 1984 Olympic gold medalist before scoring a seventh-round TKO.

BONECRUSHER SMITH

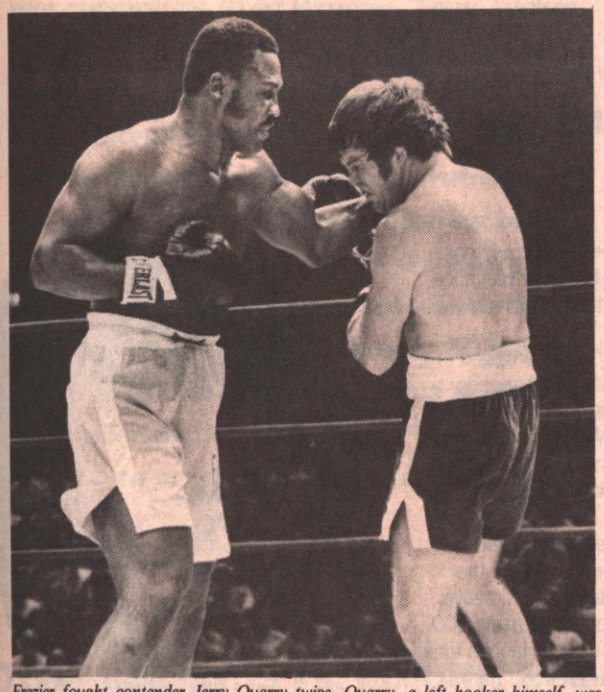
Frazier and Tyson were two guys who tried to impose their wills on opponents. Much of Frazier's reputation is built on his fights with Muhammad Ali. But Ali's style brought out the best in Frazier. Joe had tremendous heart, and he could throw the left hook all night.

People forget how sharp Tyson was when he was trained by Kevin Rooney. His defense was better, and he always had a good plan of attack. His one-punch knockout power in both hands makes him one of the most dangerous champions in history.



Frazier and Tyson would meet each other in the center of the ring and just go at it. Because of the similarities in styles, and Tyson's advantages in hand speed, power in both fists, and superior chin, I don't see this lasting long. Joe hit Ali with hundreds of left hooks and only put him down once. Ali hit Joe a lot in return. And you can't compare Ali's power with Tyson's. Mike proved his chin against Ruddock. I think this fight would be like the two Frazier-Foreman fights. Tyson would dominate from the start. I see Frazier going down a few times and the referee stopping the fight in the first or second round.

Bonecrusher Smith, a former WBA champion, lost a 12-round decision to Tyson in 1987.



Frazier fought contender Jerry Quarry twice. Quarry, a left hooker himself, was outgunned by the former champion in both meetings, getting stopped on cuts.

Tyson and Razor Ruddock met twice in 1991. Ruddock's famed "Smash" left heavyweights unconscious, but it was Tyson's assault that produced one-sided wins.

DAVE ANDERSON

Frazier and Tyson are roughly the same size, with the same straight-ahead slugger styles that would make for a quick, sensational fight, perhaps with several knockdowns.

Tyson feasted on many foes who were terrified of him, who ran as soon as the bell rang for the first round. When that happened, he pounced for an early knockout. But the difference here is that Frazier would not be afraid of Tyson, just as Buster Douglas was not afraid of him. Tyson backed off when he discovered he couldn't bully Douglas.

Frazier was stopped twice by George Foreman, who, in his early years, punched harder than Tyson. Tyson has been more of a swarming knockout puncher than a one-punch knockout puncher. Tyson would not be able to lift Frazier off the canvas as Foreman did.

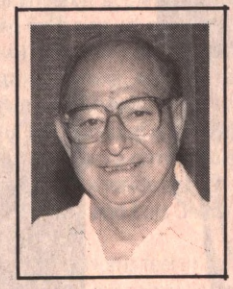
In this toe-to-toe battle, Frazier's relentless style would make Tyson stop and think, rather than storm ahead. Frazier would establish the tempo and impose his will. Just as Tyson never got going against Douglas, he wouldn't get going against Frazier. Anywhere from the third to the fifth round, Frazier would knock him out.

Dave Anderson is a sports columnist for the New York Times.

ANGELO DUNDEE

Frazier was much better than he was made out to be. He looked like he was susceptible to a lot of things, but he was pretty cagey with his motion—it wasn't the type of motion you could time. He'd give you the hustle and steadily back you up. He also had a pretty good slip jab. He'd slide to the left and stick with it. I've been trying to teach it to my kids for years. Joe would ultimately wear you down with steady pressure. He'd fit in during any era. But he did have problems with big people.

Tyson, on the other hand, had problems with tall guys, like Bonecrusher Smith and Tony Tucker. It's an era of big guys, and he shouldn't have even been around; I'm 5'7½", and he isn't that much taller than me. But he was strong and fast, and that combination—right hand to the kidney, right uppercut—not too many people can do that.



This would be two battering rams. It would come down to stamina and wills. An inside fight—bang, bang, bang; they'd be beating each other up to the body. Uppercuts wouldn't come into play, because they're both short guys. The better puncher? Who can determine? I like Tyson, late in the fight.

Angelo Dundee is a veteran trainer and manager of champions, including Muhammad Ali and Sugar Ray Leonard. ■

"GRAND SLAM"

The First Great Fight Card Of The Year

By Steve Farhood

On December 13, Don King promoted a show at The Mirage in Las Vegas. Appearing in non-title bouts were world champions Julio Cesar Chavez, Terry Norris, and Julian Jackson, as well as former champions Greg Haugen, Tony Tucker, and Greg Page. The featured bouts were predictable mismatches. (In the newsletter *Professional Boxing Update,* oddsmaker extraordinaire Herbie Lambeck refused to issue betting lines, instead referring to the bouts as "exhibitions.") But we'll forgive King for one reason: The card was nothing more than hype for his February 20 pay-per-view show at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City, billed as "Grand Slam." *That* show might turn out to be the best card of the year.

A preview:

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ vs. GREG HAUGEN

WBC Super Lightweight Title
Records: Chavez: 84-0 (69); Haugen: 32-4-1 (16)

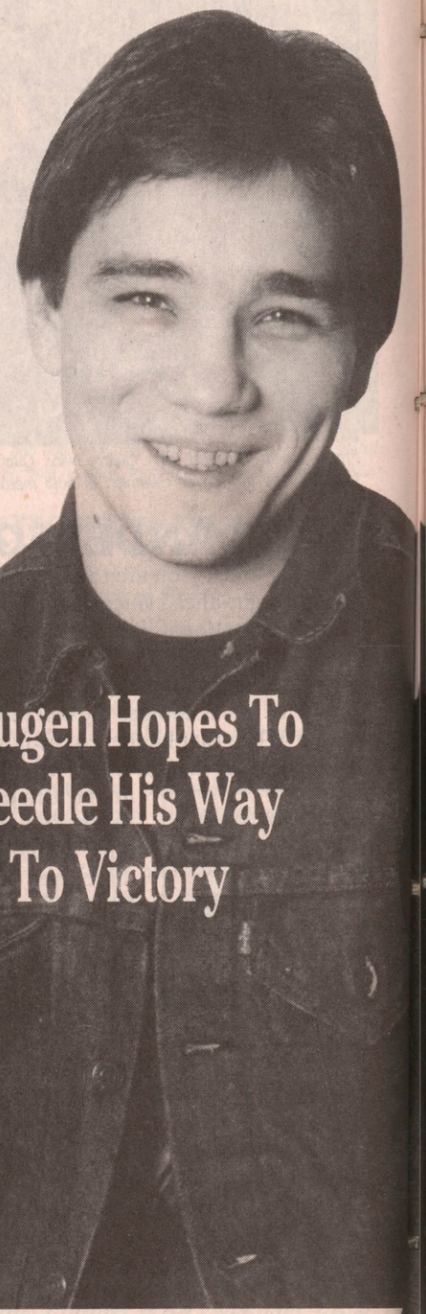
Some fighters plan to jab and move away from Chavez. Others figure the ticket to victory is aggressiveness and punching power. Acknowledging that 84 consecutive fighters have failed against "J.C. Superstar," Haugen has opted for a different approach: Instead of using his fists or feet, he's trying to beat Chavez with his mouth.

"I've gotten under his skin," Haugen said in Las Vegas, where he and Chavez engaged in tuneups. Trouble was, Haugen's tuneup almost cost him his title shot. Mexico's Armando Campas seemed a safe opponent—six losses in 24 fights, three by stoppage. But Haugen scaled a hefty 146, hadn't sparred at all, and was suffering from the flu. With Chavez watching on a monitor in his dressing room, his future foe struggled to a unanimous decision victory. (*The Ring* thought the bout could have gone either way.) With his poor performance having indicted him, Haugen's postfight taunts proved weightless.

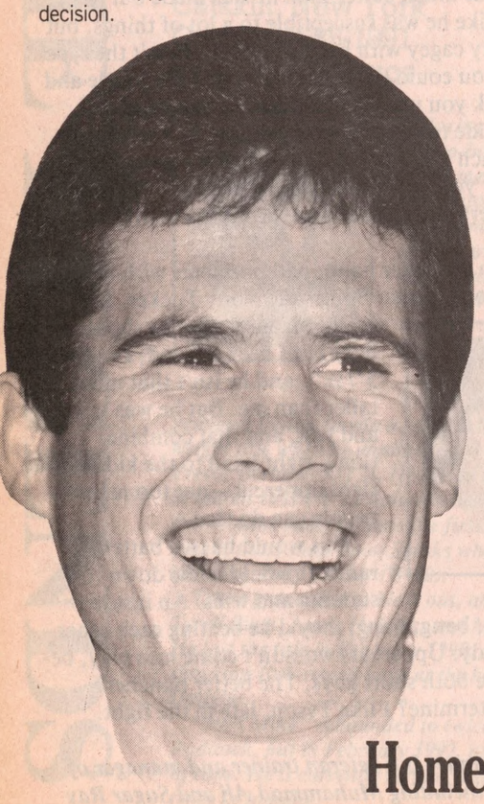
It's almost impossible to envision Haugen pulling off an upset. He doesn't move fast enough to frustrate Chavez, nor does he hit hard enough to neutralize his rushes. Still, the bout is attractive. Haugen is a legitimate contender, and he's always fun to watch. Moreover, Chavez is 84-0; every fight tempts fate, and every victory brings him closer to the magic 100.

Defending before his countrymen, Chavez will be in top condition. He'll study Haugen for a round or two, as is his wont, and then begin his march of destruction. Haugen won't run, which should make for a relatively entertaining battle. But he won't slow Chavez, either. The only question will be whether he lasts the distance.

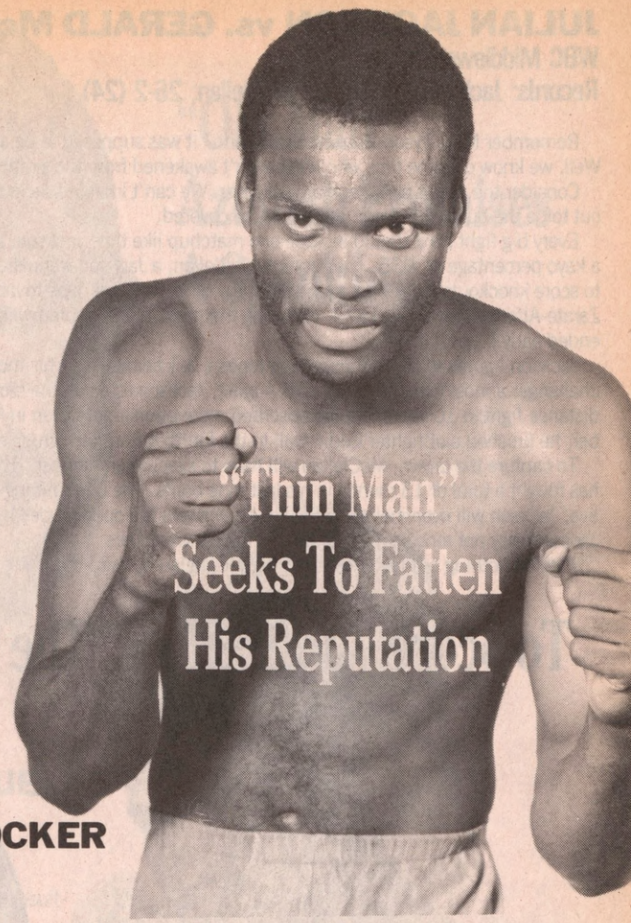
Haugen plans to parade into the ring to the strains of "Born In The USA," with an American flag draped across his body. "That," he said with his puckish grin, "should make the fans *real* happy." It will probably prove to be the highlight of his night. Chavez by one-sided decision.



Haugen Hopes To Needle His Way To Victory



Homeboy Julio To Turn Up The Heat



"Thin Man" Seeks To Fatten His Reputation

TERRY NORRIS vs. MAURICE BLOCKER

WBC Super Welterweight Title
Records: Norris: 33-3 (19); Blocker: 34-2 (18)

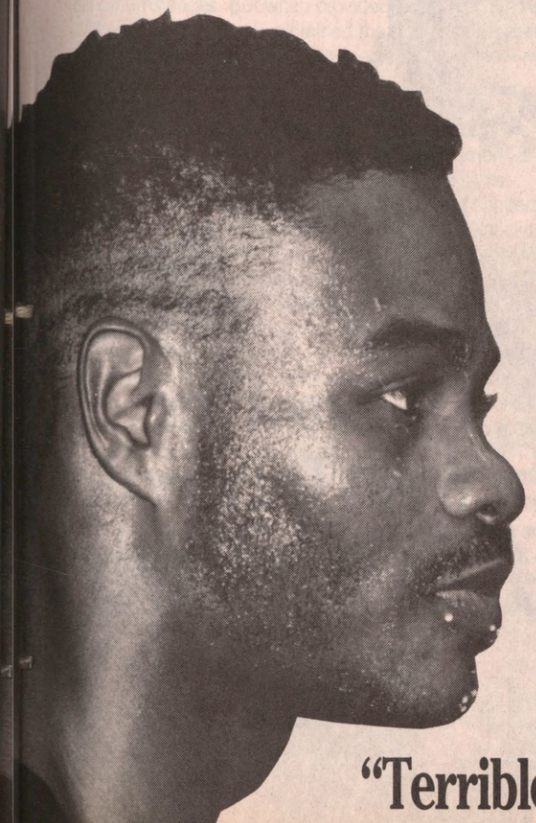
What's a friend for if not to serve as a stand-in at a mugging? With Simon Brown shelved by a detached retina, Blocker, the former welterweight champion's neighbor and best buddy, is a most accomplished substitute. The reigning IBF welterweight champion is unaccustomed to the 154-pound weight class. Given his frame, however, "The Thin Man" will be able to adjust without difficulty. Besides, with Blocker faced with the prospect of defending against a list of uninspiring contenders like Luis Garcia, Yori Boy Campas, Kevin Pompey, Stephan Johnson, and Larry Barnes, manager Butch Lewis realizes that a try at Norris is a risk well worth taking.

On paper, at least, Blocker should trouble Norris more than Brown would have. While Brown is a heavy hooker who would have given Norris countless offensive opportunities, the 6'1" Blocker is a chessmaster. He doesn't always make for exciting bouts, but in a game of move-countermove, he's difficult to checkmate.

This bout gives Norris a legitimate opportunity to prove that he belongs with Chavez and Pernell Whitaker at the top of the pound-for-pound ratings. The champion will be criticized for facing yet another blown-up welterweight (see Meldrick Taylor). Blocker, however, is hardly just another fighter. If Norris fails to force the action and establish his superior power, he could be outboxed. And that would destroy a potential showdown with Chavez.

An analysis of this matchup is simple: If Blocker can keep his distance, score with his jab, and maintain a comfortable pace, he'll be a threat to steal a close decision. If Norris can work inside of his punching range, fire in combination, and reach Blocker as Brown and Luis Garcia did, he'll triumph by mid-rounds stoppage or one-sided verdict.

Will the oft-cautious Norris feel uncomfortable attacking against as skilled an opponent as Blocker? The guess here is no. "Terrible Terry" keeps getting more terrible with every fight. Norris by sixth-round kayo.



"Terrible Terry" Takes On Surprise Foe

JULIAN JACKSON vs. GERALD McCLELLAN

WBC Middleweight Title

Records: Jackson: 46-1 (43); McClellan: 26-2 (24)

Remember Mike Tyson-Bonecrusher Smith? It was supposed to be a dramatic duel of big hitters, with the first punch likely to be the last. Well, we know of some fans who *still* haven't awakened from the slumber induced by those 12 tedious rounds.

Consider the above paragraph a disclaimer. We can't imagine Jackson-McClellan being anything less than explosive, but in case it turns out to be the bust of the year, at least we're covered.

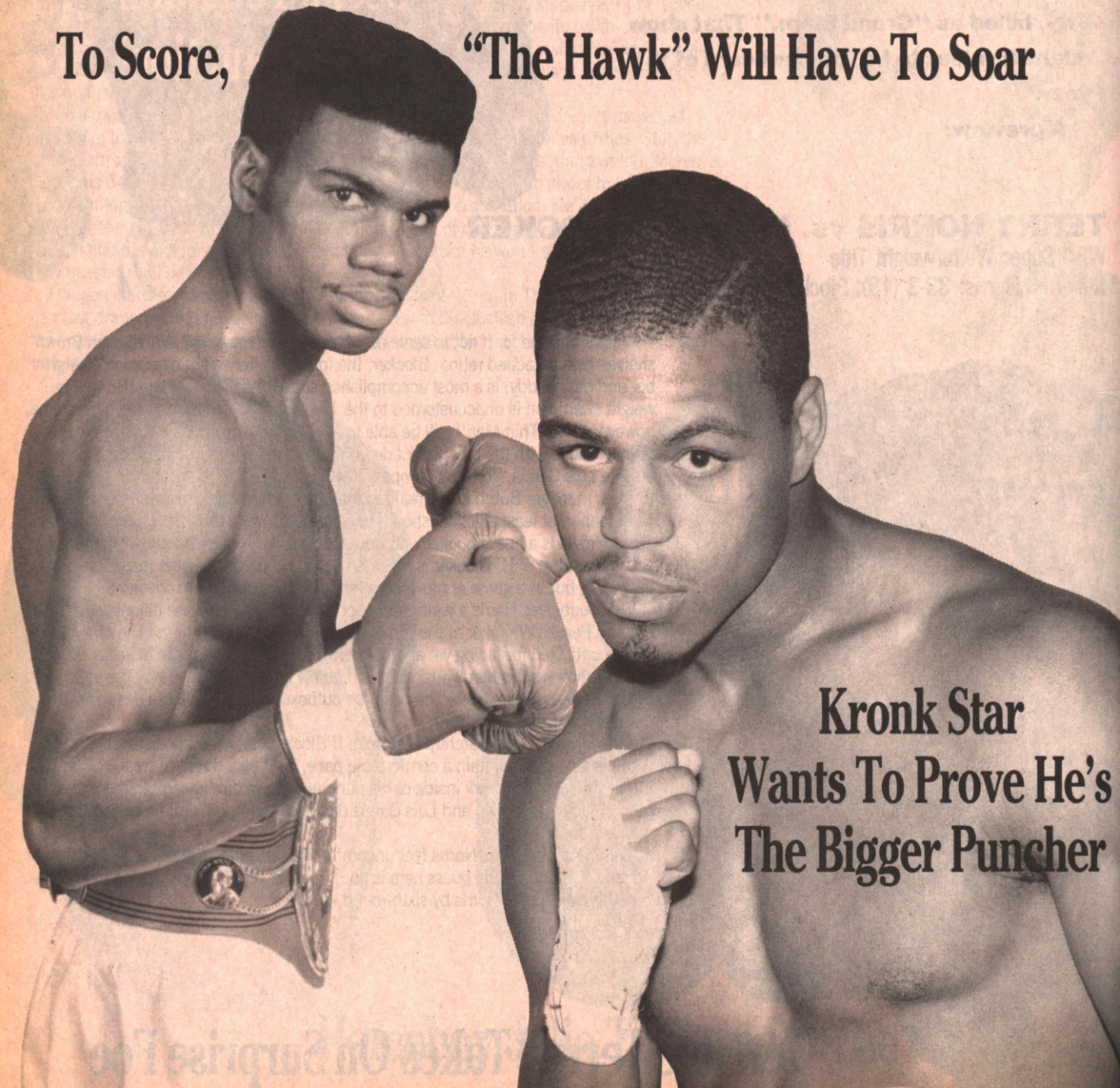
Every big fight card should include one matchup like this. Jackson, generally considered the hardest one-punch bomber in the game, has a kayo percentage of .935. The Kronk's McClellan, a Jackson wannabe, boasts of a percentage of .923. Both middleweights are more likely to score knockouts in the first round than any other. It is not hype to label this one of the most potentially violent title bouts since Carlos Zarate-Alfonso Zamora in 1977. (Entering that fight, those bantamweights were a combined 67-0 with 66 kayos. Guess what—the bout ended early.)

Jackson figures to climb through the ropes a 2-1 favorite, but his most recent performances, combined with McClellan's power, make the challenger a most live underdog. Last August, Jackson retained the crown with a points win over the unheralded Thomas Tate. It was his first distance fight in 10 years, and he absorbed more punishment than in his nine previous title bouts combined. In a non-title bout in December, he finished clubfighter Eddie Hall in the fourth round, but struggled to do so. Is "The Hawk" beginning to fade?

To capture the crown, McClellan will have to execute an ambush. The longer the bout goes, the better the champion's chances; McClellan has fought a total of 13 rounds in his last nine bouts. The determining factor will be McClellan's approach. If he is just a bit nervous or tentative, Jackson will overwhelm him. But if he answers the opening bell by firing his two pet punches, a straight right and a hook to the body, Jackson may not recover in time to launch his own rockets.

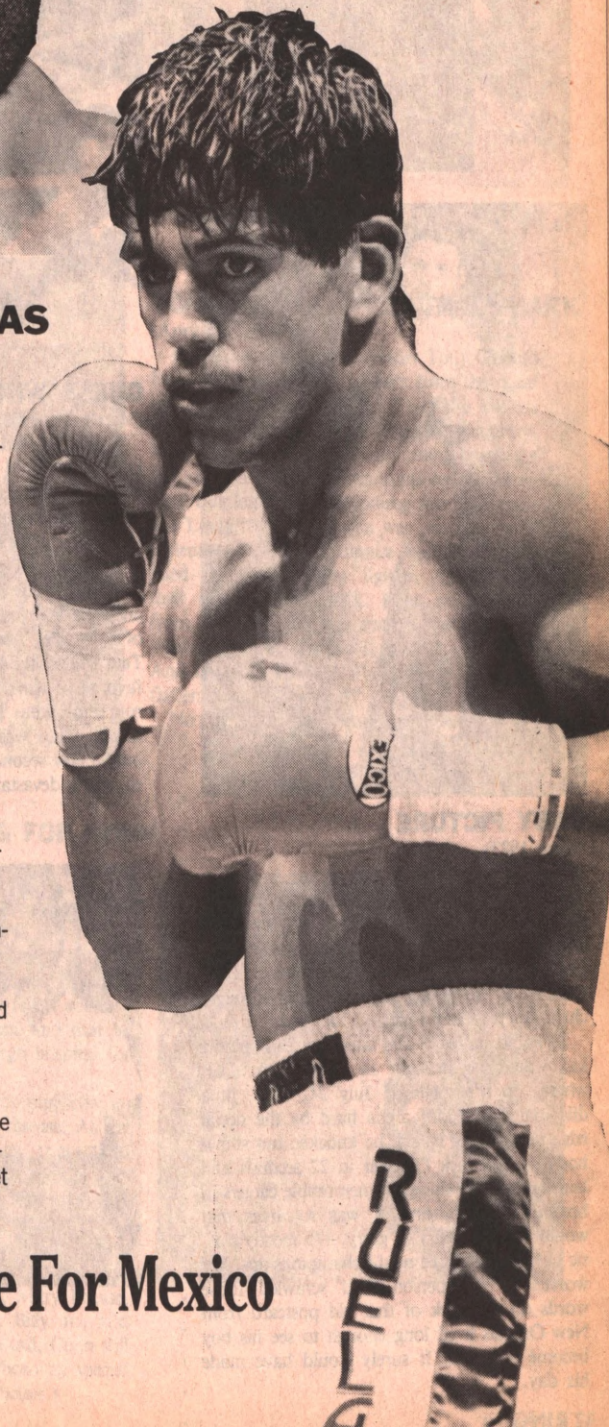
Picking nothing but favorites is boring. McClellan by third-round kayo. *Kaboom!*

To Score, "The Hawk" Will Have To Soar



Kronk Star Wants To Prove He's The Bigger Puncher

"Old Man" Azumah Promises A Spanking



AZUMAH NELSON vs. GABRIEL RUELAS

WBC Super Featherweight Title

Records: Nelson: 35-2-1 (26); Ruelas: 33-1 (16)

At a recent fight card in Las Vegas, *The Ring* asked Ruelas why he had insulted Nelson during an interview on Showtime. ("I'm glad," Ruelas had said, "I'm gonna get a chance to kick his ass.") Nelson is tough enough under normal circumstances. But when provided with extra motivation . . .

"I *want* to fight him," explained the WBC's number-one contender. "I was so disappointed when Calvin Grove got the shot before me. Azumah's the guy I want to beat."

That kind of attitude is either going to get Ruelas kayoed, or enable him to score the first big upset of the year. It's near-impossible to pick against Nelson; he's lost once in 10 years. But "The African Warrior" is 34 (Ruelas is 22), and at some point he'll have to acknowledge Father Time.

Those preparing to slide Azumah into a pair of slippers and a rocking chair were taken aback by the Ghanian's March 1992 knockout of Jeff Fenech. The bout served as a reminder of how good Nelson can be. If *that* fighter enters the ring against Ruelas, the challenger will be lucky to last the distance. The question, then, is reduced to this: Assuming Nelson gives a typical hot-and-cold performance, will Ruelas be able to capitalize? The answer: a definite maybe.

Ruelas fought seven times (52 rounds) in 1992, with his last three bouts having gone the distance, lending credence to our belief that he isn't the puncher he was before fracturing his elbow in 1990. That's okay; he doesn't figure to knock out Nelson anyway. He'll need to outbox and outwork him, especially on the inside. (Nelson likes to lay against the ropes, and Ruelas is an accomplished body puncher.) If Nelson gets lazy for long stretches, Ruelas' youth and energy may become the deciding factors.

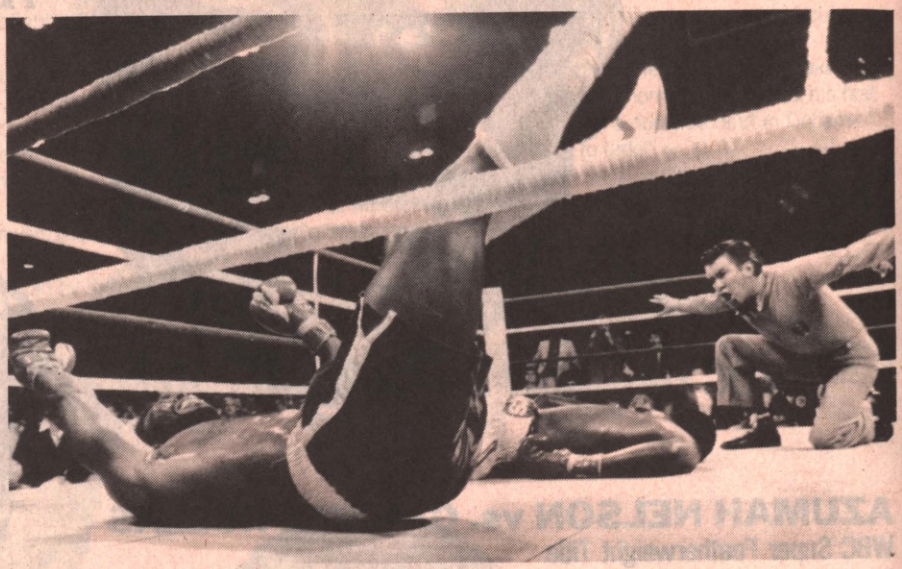
This is a tough one to pick. We've already given you one upset (McClellan over Jackson), so you'll have to settle for Nelson by split decision. Let's hope the champion deserves the verdict; Ruelas is a Mexican-American, and the fans—capacity at Estadio Azteca is 120,000—won't need much of an excuse to get excited. ■

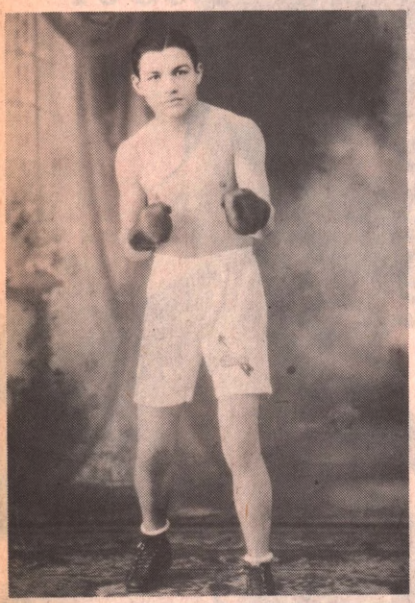
Ruelas Seeks Revenge For Mexico

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken





BABY PICTURE

(Circa 1923)

He was only 15 when this picture was taken in 1923, but the features are clearly CANZONERI. This is a postcard, tinted in golden tone, as was so popular at the time. Scrawled on the back are the words "Tony Canzoneri, 113 pounds, amateur bantamweight champion of New Orleans, La."

It would be two years later that this spindly kid would be brought to New York City, where, on the night of July 24, 1925, in a dilapidated, outdoor arena hard by the ocean edge near Coney Island, he knocked out somebody named Jack Gardner in 22 seconds and launched one of the most memorable careers in boxing's long history. It was a career that would span 14 years of glory, 175 mostly classic battles, and three world championships. We wonder if the person who scrawled those words on the back of that old postcard from New Orleans lived long enough to see his boy become a legend. It surely would have made his day.

GUESS WHO WON

(March 31, 1980)

If you guessed the fight ended in a double-knockout, you'd be wrong. Not only did the guy laying flat on his back (nearest the camera) win, but he became the new WBA heavyweight champion. Here's what really happened:

Towering 240-pound Big John Tate was defending the title against rugged, ringwise veteran Mike Weaver in the champion's hometown of Knoxville, Tennessee. It was the undefeated Tate's first title defense, and he was the heavy favorite to win. Going into the 15th and final round of what had been mostly a one-sided match, Tate was ahead on points. But with only a few seconds remaining, Weaver exploded with a devastating hook that felled Big John like a giant tree. He landed with his nose buried in the soggy canvas.

As referee Ernesto Magana started counting over the stricken champion, it became obvious that Tate wasn't going to move even a muscle. Weaver, delirious with joy, leaped high in the air, and then, to the astonishment of everyone, fell backward on the floor, alongside his victim. In this picture, Magana has just tolled the fatal 10-count and waved his hands sideways, the traditional signal of a knockout. At that very instant, Weaver became the new champion, the very first to be crowned while laying flat on his back (exluding, of course, those who won their titles on fouls).

FOR BIG BUCKS

(July 8, 1946)

Master promoter Mike Jacobs tests the arm of middleweight king Tony Zale after signing ceremonies for Tony's title defense against sensational slugger Rocky Graziano in New York. After serving four war years in the U.S. Navy, Zale had racked up half-a-dozen knockouts in non-title bouts and yearned for a major payday. To the rescue came "Uncle Mike."

"You and Rocky are gonna sell out the big ballpark," Jacobs assured "Man Of Steel" Zale. "And you're gonna take home more money for this one than you did for the 10 biggest paydays you've had all put together."

Jacobs wasn't far off in his prediction. Zale knocked out Graziano in the sixth round of what was to be the first fight of their sensational three-bout series. And the champion's share of the purse was the biggest of his 12-year career.

WHEN JOEY CAME MARCHING HOME

(February 15, 1950)

Looking like a strapping, strikingly handsome Roman conqueror being cheered by his army of worshippers, Giuseppe Antonio Berardinelli stands tall in the lead parade car as it winds its way through not Rome, but Cleveland, Ohio, on a snowy, frigid day. In case you don't recognize that jaw-breaking name, you'll surely know him by his ring name, Joey Maxim.

This was the scene when Joey was officially honored by more than 3,500 adoring fellow Clevelanders after returning from England, where he had kayoed Freddie Mills to win the light heavyweight championship of the world. Seated directly in front of Joey, wearing the light-colored homburg hat, is his famous manager, Jack Kearns, who also guided Jack Dempsey, Mickey Walker, and Archie Moore to world titles.

Quipped Kearns at the dinner that followed, "Joey, you should run for Mayor of Cleveland, or even Governor of Ohio, after you retire."

"Why not now?" Maxim asked.

"Because you'll have a better shot at politics after we win the *heavyweight* title," snapped Kearns, who brushed aside any thoughts of his tiger's retirement.

COPYCAT

(January 14, 1963)

During a walking tour of Copenhagen, world welterweight and junior middleweight champion Emile Griffith assumed the rigid stance of a palace guard and, to the delight of accompanying press photographers, marched right along with him. Emile was in town to defend the 154-pound crown against local hero Chris Christensen.

Christensen made a courageous effort to give his country a world champion, but Virgin Islands native Griffith packed too much ring savvy and too many guns as he glided to a ninth-round, title-saving kayo victory.

TONY DELIVERS HIS TRADEMARK

(April 20, 1939)

Robust heavyweight contender Tony Galento hauls a 100-pound keg of beer from the cellar of his New Jersey saloon. When this picture appeared on sports pages around the country, fans wondered, "What's Tony doing hugging a keg of beer when he was supposed to be in hard training for his upcoming title fight with Joe Louis?" That question was put directly to Galento by famed columnist Red Smith. Replied the beer-guzzling fighter, "Babies get their strength from milk. I get my strength from beer. I think my mother fed me beer instead of milk, starting the day I was born. And beer will give me the strength I need to flatten that bum Louis!"

No prediction ever proved to be so wrong.

CONN SUBSTITUTING FOR CONN

(November 7, 1992)

Billy Conn's son, Timmy, looking remarkably like his famous dad did when he was world champion, accepts a plaque awarded by the World Boxing Hall of Fame at a banquet in Los Angeles. The big crowd was saddened when Timmy explained that his father was unable to attend because of illness, and that he has been confined in a Pittsburgh hospital for the last two months.

Billy Conn has been slowed by pugilistic dementia, a form of Alzheimer's disease. As the name implies, it has a boxing connection, caused by repeated head blows. The 75-year-old former champion suffers from severe memory loss, living most of the time in a silent world of his own. But he is still active, and often restless to move around. And with his beloved wife of half a century, Mary Louise, and his adoring sons, Timmy, Billy Jr., and Michael, always at his beck and call, Conn still fights like a true champion. (Photo by special *Ring* correspondent Abe Hochheiser.)

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next

$100 winner

Actual questions

Which of the boxers was not a heavyweight champion in the Olympics?

1) George Foreman
2) Henry Tillman
3) Joe Frazier
4) Mike Tyson

He was the only undefeated heavyweight champion

1) Rocky Marciano
2) Joe Louis
3) Jack Dempsey
4) Rocky Graziano

Which man is known as "The Fight Doctor"?

1) Don King
2) Angelo Dundee
3) Ferdie Pacheco
4) Howard Cosell

Where does a rabbit-punch hit?

1) the groin
2) the ears
3) the kidneys
4) the back of the head

How did you do?

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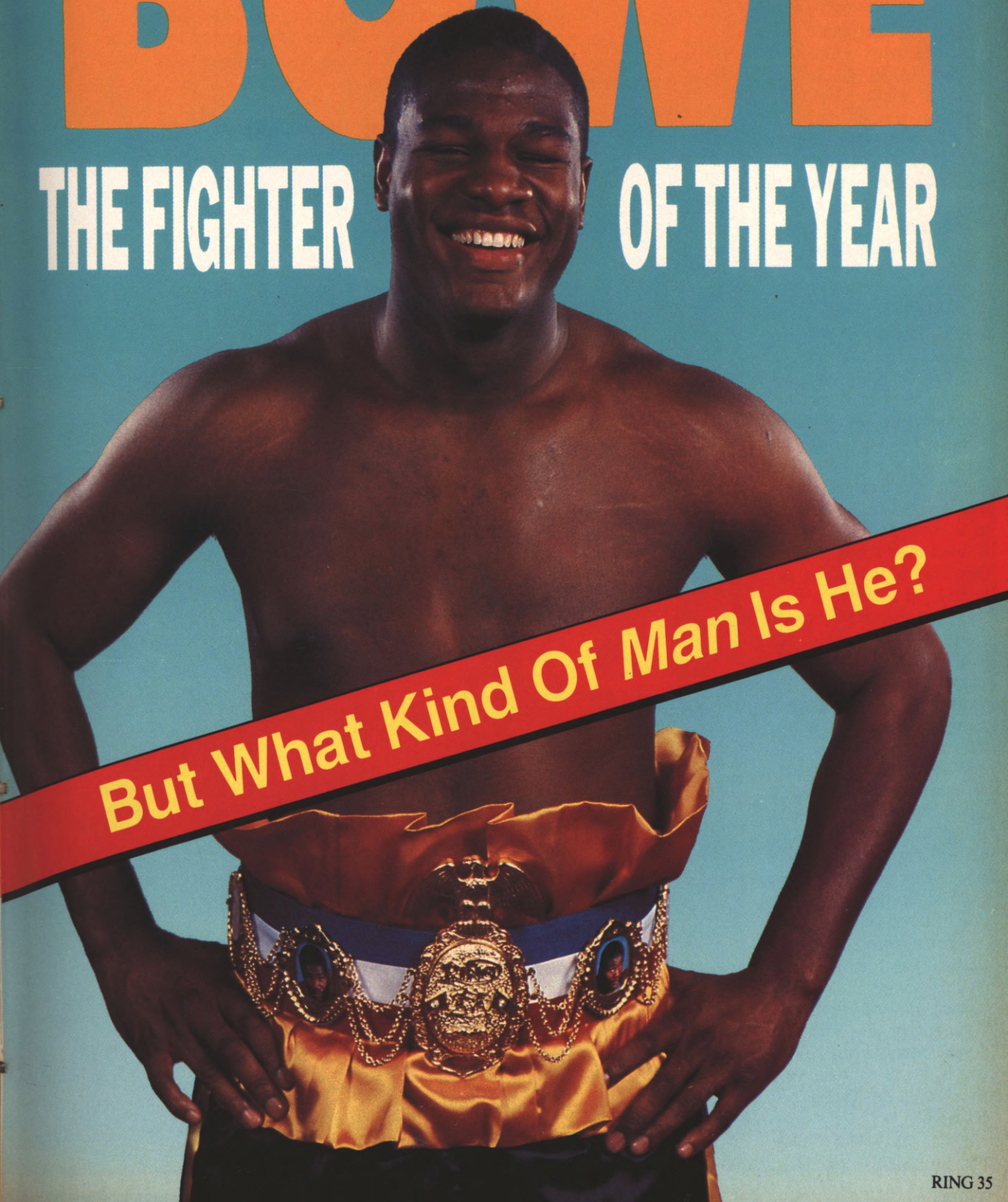
Boxing Challenge Rules & Regulations:
Call as often as you like. The contest begins December 16, 1992, and runs through June 16, 1993. There is no age restriction to participate. Kids, get your parents' permission before calling. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute. This contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with THE RING Magazine. No purchase necessary to participate. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to RING TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive boxing trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the weekly drawing for one $100 prize. Ten runners-up each week will receive one copy of a replica of the first issue of The Ring magazine (retail value $9.95). Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law.

RIDDICK BOWE

THE FIGHTER OF THE YEAR



But What Kind Of Man Is He?

By Jeff Ryan

"Image is everything"
—Andre Agassi

Ah, the great thinkers can put it all in perspective, can't they? But that Socrates with the slice serve is right. If image didn't matter, office space on Madison Avenue would go for 14 cents a square foot, pro wrestling would draw as many fans as pro squash, and Disneyland would be just some theme park with one hell of a nerve charging $29 to get in. Entire industries are built on image. Entire lives are determined by it.

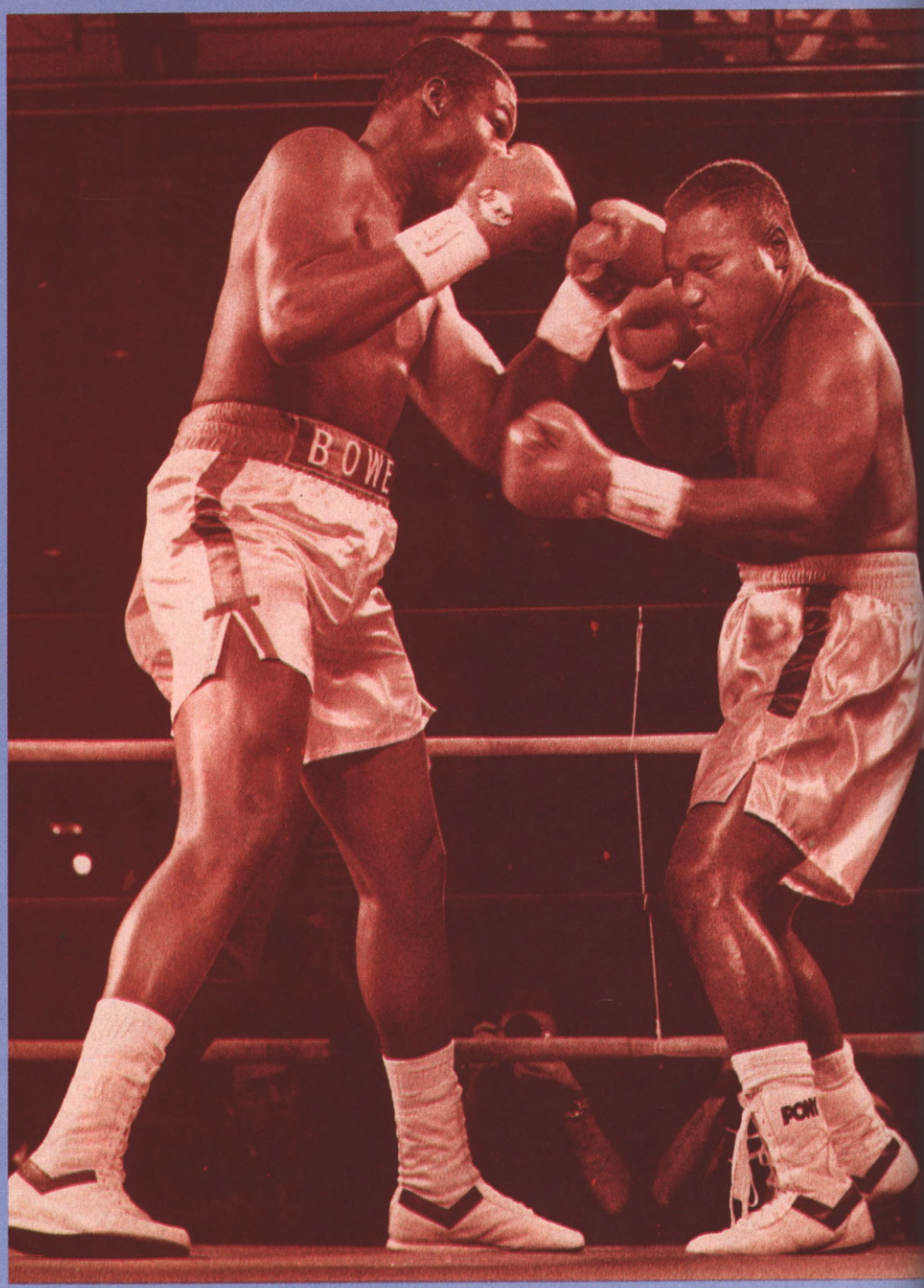
We like our Presidents to look authoritative and our athletes to flout authority. So Richard Nixon's five-o'clock shadow costs him the election in 1960, and Andre Agassi's five-o-clock shadow costs Nike a few million dollars in endorsement money that it pays him. Image leads us to conclude that Madonna is awesome in bed, Andrew Dice Clay is the wrong guy to pick up if you're a Pakistani taxi driver with a "No Smoking" sign in your cab, and Kathie Lee Gifford would just as soon bake you a cake as lend you a cup of sugar if you knocked on her front door.

When our images unravel, we don't even get too upset. Instead, we act like we were just grateful for the time we got to cling to them. So the JFK years weren't really Camelot. So only one of the Beach Boys could surf. So America's perfect wife, Joan Lunden, has had the ugliest divorce. So America's perfect buffoon, Howard Stern, turns from Mighty Joe Young to Robert Young when he's sitting in his living room with his children on his lap.
So what.

Better a wrong image than no image at all.

RIDDICK BOWE
THE YEAR THAT WAS

At the start of 1992, Riddick Bowe was among a select group of unbeaten heavyweight contenders that included Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, and Ray Mercer. By the year's end, he was the undisputed world heavyweight champion, and historians were outlining his path to greatness. A fight-by-fight recap:



On paper, Everett "Bigfoot" Martin hardly looked like a worthy opponent. But for five rounds, he withstood Bowe's big blows and proved to be a troublesome test.

KO 1 Conroy Nelson, Atlantic City, April 7: No fight here. (Not that anybody was expecting one.) Canada's Nelson, 20-18-2 (12), had lost to, among others, Trevor Berbick, Razor Ruddock, Mike Tyson, Alex Stewart, and Bert Cooper. He falls from the first right that Bowe lands. After another right sends him through the ropes, referee Joe Cortez stops the ugliness at 1:16 of the first round.

Even Eddie Futch, Bowe's stately trainer, expresses his disgust.

"I think I got pretty good eyes," he says, "and I saw two punches land."

KO 5 Bigfoot Martin, Las Vegas, May 8: Forget his undistinguished record of 17-13-1 (8); stomping out Bigfoot proves no small task. Bowe notches his 30th win—and 26th stoppage—when Martin suffers a nasty cut on his left eyelid. Referee Toby Gibson intervenes at 2:28 of the fifth.

It's a brawl while it lasts, with Martin absorbing some terrific uppercuts in round one and answering with several dangerous hooks. By the finish, however, Bowe is landing almost all of his powerpunches.

"I hit this guy with some monstrous shots," he says.

KO 7 Pierre Coetzer, Las Vegas, July 18: Bowe passes the type of test a contender needs before challenging for the world title. Billed as a WBA title eliminator, the fight quickly turns into a shootout. Coetzer, rated first only a few months ago, brawls with Bowe in the first round, offering a strong chin but an average punch. Coetzer's left eye begins to close in the third, and in the fifth, Bowe establishes control. Referee Mills Lane penalizes him for dropping the South African with a low blow in the sixth. In the seventh, another low blow sets up a right-hook-right combination, and Coetzer turns away and toward the ropes. Lane calls a halt with one second remaining in the round.

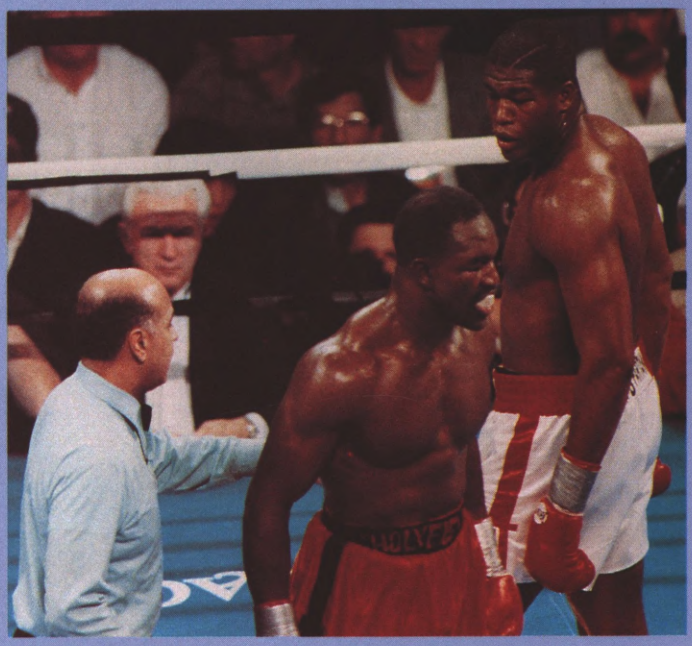
"I still don't believe [Evander Holyfield] takes a punch as well as Coetzer," says Bowe.

W 12 Evander Holyfield, Las Vegas, November 13: The second half of the Final Four (Lennox Lewis kayoed Razor Ruddock on the Halloween-night opener) features a pair of heavyweights with a combined record of 59-0 (49). Holyfield climbs through the ropes as a slight favorite because of his edge in experience. The 6'5", 235-pound Bowe, however, is both the bigger fighter and the bigger puncher.

Holyfield, 28-1 (22), boxes strongly in the first round, then sets a spirited pace while challenging Bowe on the inside. His hooks land often, but with little effect. Bowe, 32-0 (27), works the body and scores with ripping uppercuts. In the unforgettable 10th, the fighters take turns pumelling each other. Bowe scores a knockdown in the 11th, and cruises through the 12th, taking the title by unanimous scores of 117-110 (twice) and 115-112.

"The experts picked Evander Holyfield to win," he says. "I proved them wrong. I told you when this fight was over a lot of questions would be answered."

—Steve Farhood



Pierre Coetzer gave Bowe a difficult time because his iron chin kept him in front of "Big Daddy" for seven rounds. But the tough fight helped prepare Bowe for his brutal battle of wills with Evander Holyfield.

That's why this heavyweight champion of ours is so difficult to appreciate. Riddick Bowe is in our midst, and we think we like what we see, but damned if we know what it is we're looking at. Just when we're sure that we've identified him, we find someone else's ID card in his pocket. Just when we think his whereabouts on the nights in question will tell all, the lab report informs us that the fingerprints don't match. Just when we think we've checkmated this enigmatic heavyweight king, the table leg breaks and the chess pieces topple to the floor. Have to call it a draw. And a tie goes to the champion.

Mike Tyson: badass. Evander Holyfield: nice guy. Riddick Bowe? Let us get back to you on this one.

"Bowe has humility and truculence entwined in his personality," says WBA cruiserweight champion Bobby Czyz, a friend of the heavyweight king. "There are days when he's a soft-spoken gentle giant, and days when he's just arrogant. You can never be sure what [Bowe manager] Rock Newman is putting into his head, when he's telling him, 'Say this today and that tomorrow.' "

"I'm *not* trying to create an image for Bowe," Newman tells *The Ring*. "Riddick is a multifaceted human being."

"This," points out Bowe, "is not gonna be an average title reign."

No doubt much of the difficulty in understanding who Bowe is stems from

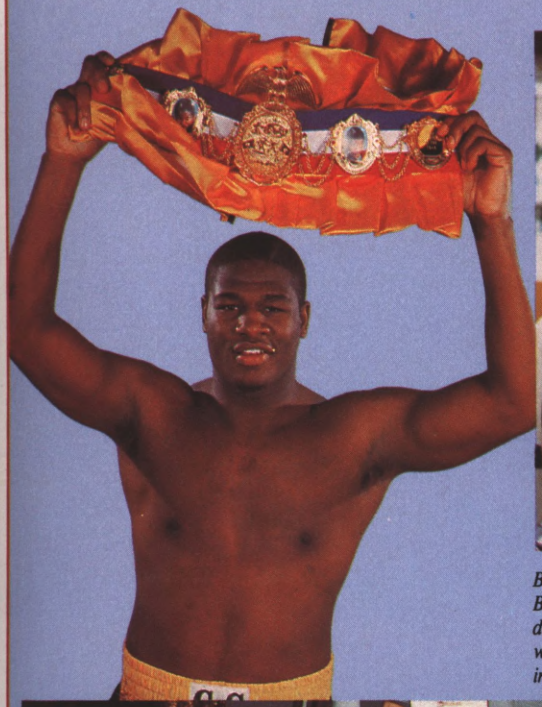
(Continued on page 60)

For the past four years, Bowe's critics questioned his heart. Against Holyfield, however, Bowe showed that he had a very big heart and a very big jab. Both carried him to victory.

All night long Bowe showed Holyfield that he had a right to the title. Afterward, Bowe basked in the glory of his achievement, wrapping the three title belts around his massive frame.

RIDDICK BOWE
HOMECOMING HERO

After wresting the heavyweight championship from Evander Holyfield, Riddick Bowe returned to his home turf of Brooklyn, New York, and was greeted by a horde of family members and friends. The new champ also paid a visit to Manhattan, where New York City Mayor David Dinkins presented him with the key to the city. Bowe reciprocated by giving Dinkins a pair of boxing gloves. They could come in handy when Dinkins runs for re-election later this year.

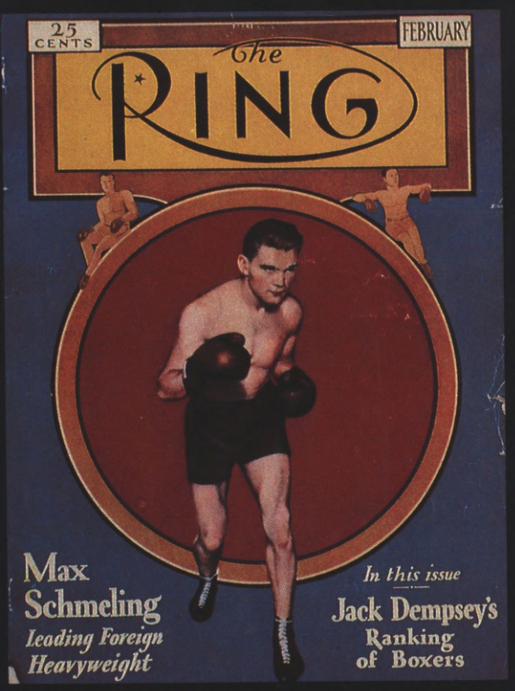


Bowe throws a left at Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, who honored the champ in a Brooklyn celebration.

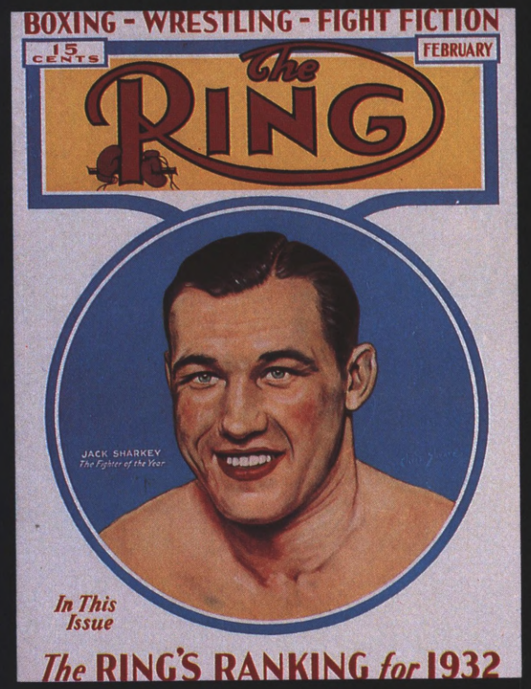
Bowe's mother, Dorothy, waves thanks to everyone who turned out to greet her son. Bowe and his wife, Judy, look on.

No, New York Mayor David Dinkins isn't fit to be tied. He's merely caught up in the festive mood surrounding Bowe's victory tour of "The Big Apple."

The RING Fighters Of The Year



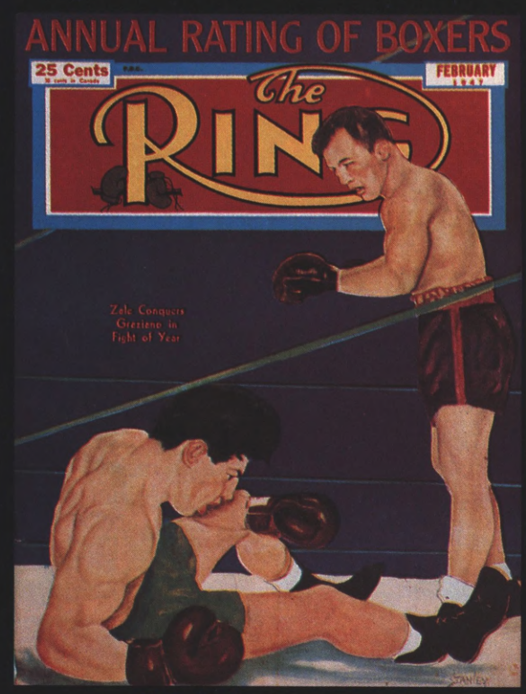
1930-*Max Schmeling*



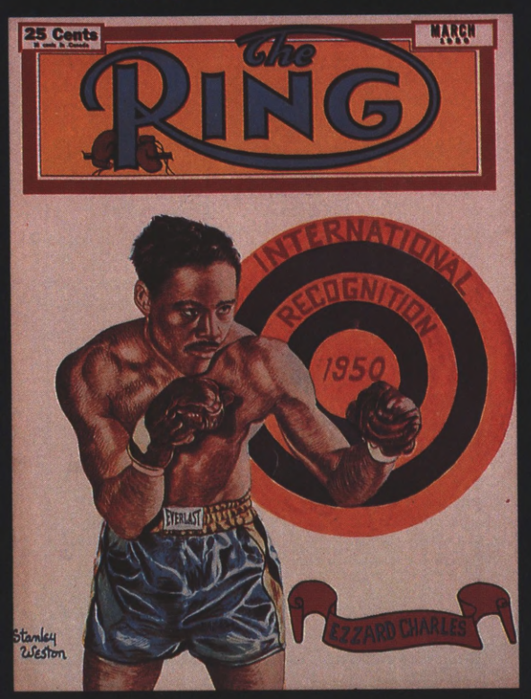
1932-*Jack Sharkey*

1937-*Henry Armstrong*

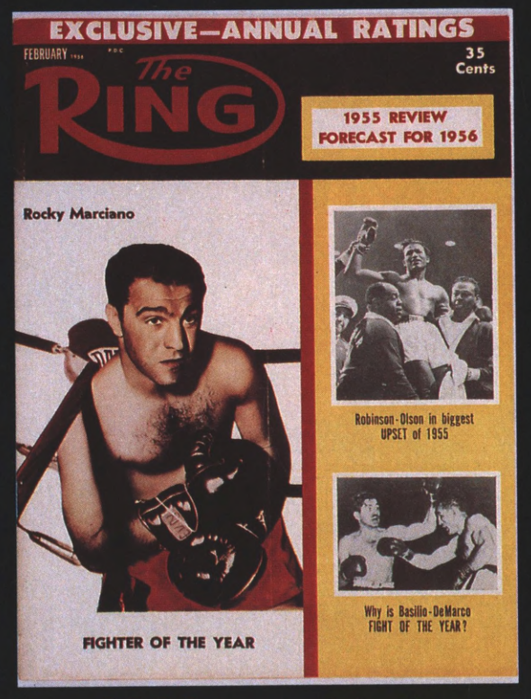
1942-*Sugar Ray Robinson*



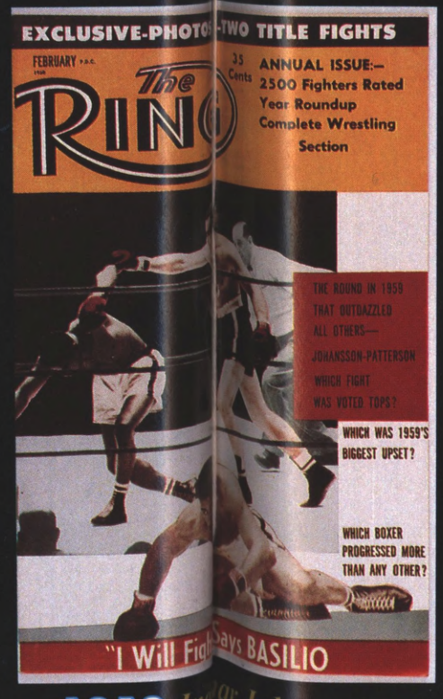
1946-*Tony Zale*



1949-*Ezzard Charles*

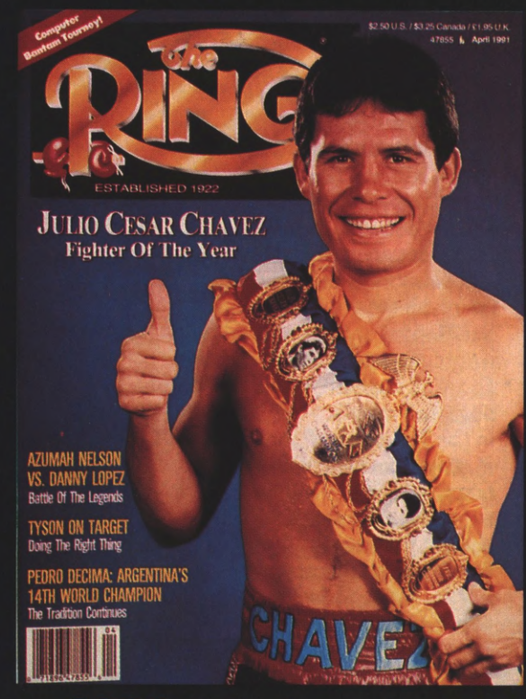


1955-*Rocky Marciano*



1959-*Ingemar Johansson*

1986-*Mike Tyson*



1990-*Julio Cesar Chavez*

IN YOUR FACE

This is the kind of fight that the kids in school talk about all day. The two biggest bullies in the neighborhood are going to meet at the flagpole at 3 p.m., and the energy and anticipation buzzes through the halls. It is the ultimate showdown. No teachers, no parents, no rules.

Let's Get Ready To RUUMMBBBBBLE!

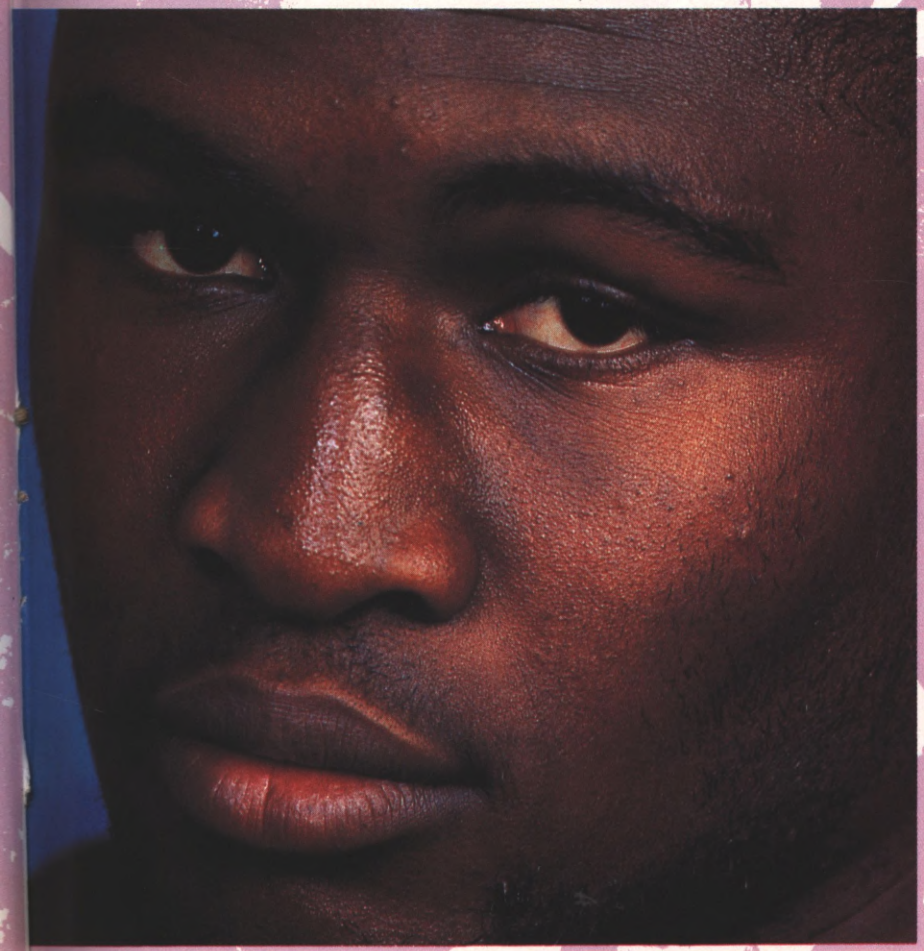
In February, one day before Valentine's Day, IBF super middleweight champion Iran Barkley and IBF middleweight champion James Toney, a pair of thugs turned pugs, will meet at a flagpole in Las Vegas with a lot more at stake than neighborhood bragging rights. There will be a referee present, but that doesn't necessarily guarantee there'll be order in the ring.

They will fight for Barkley's title, and the winner will emerge as the undisputed bad boy of boxing. Given the maniacal tendencies of these

YOUR

a preview of the Barkley-Toney rumble

By Robert Cassidy



two fighters, the rumble may start before ring announcer Michael Buffer roars the last syllable of his trademark line.

"They are two crazy guys who hate each other," said the bout's promoter, Bob Arum.

Crazy indeed. But while Barkley and Toney receive a lot of publicity for their volatility and trash-talking behavior, they have proven to be world-class fighters and champions.

Barkley, a classic overachiever who seemed finished after losing consecutive fights to Michael Nunn, Roberto Duran, and Nigel Benn two years ago, pulled himself out of boxing's abyss to win a pair of world titles last year. He pummeled Darrin Van Horn in two rounds to take the IBF 168-pound crown in January, and 10 weeks later dropped Thomas Hearns in taking the "Hit Man's" WBA light

(Continued on page 54)

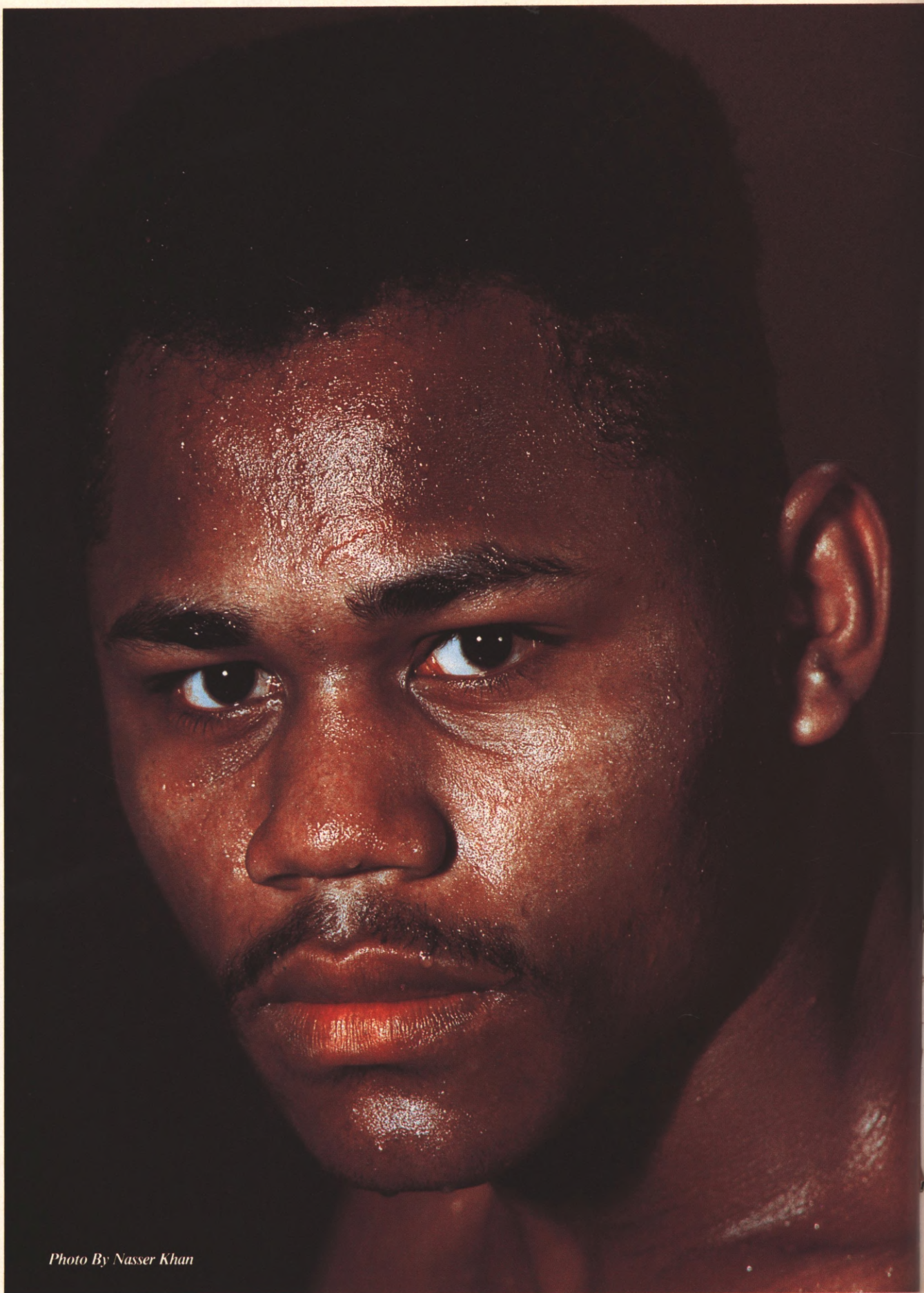
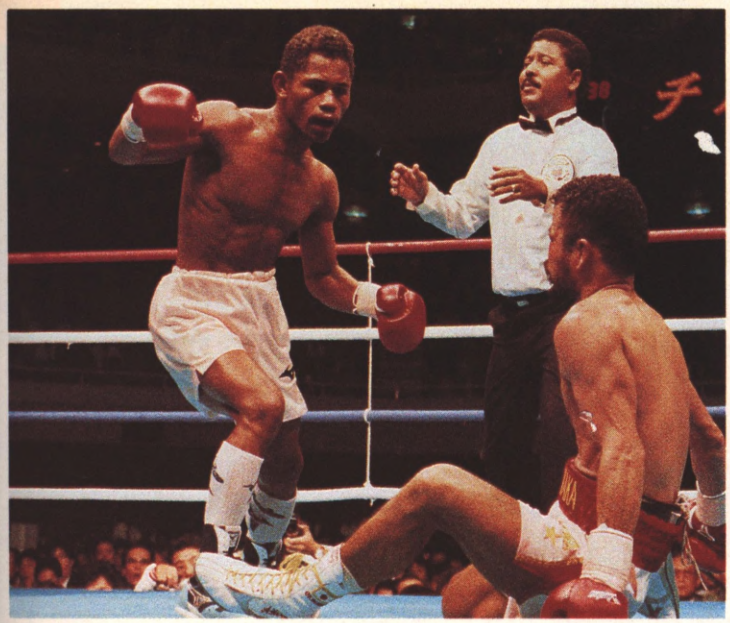
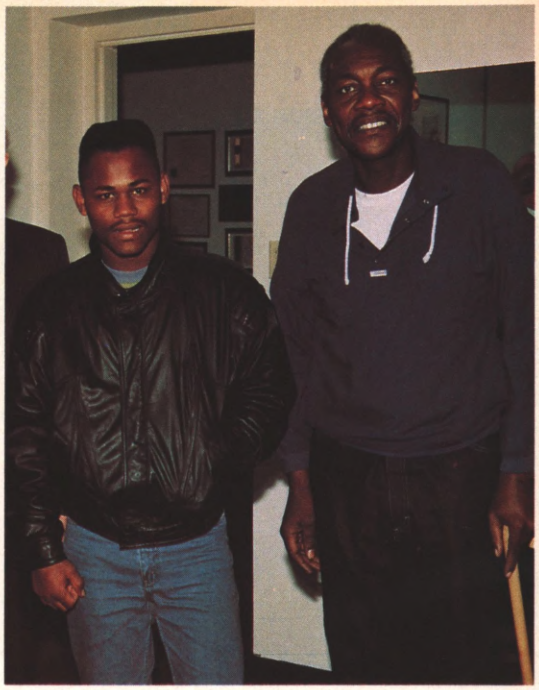


Photo By Nasser Khan





WBA JUNIOR WELTER CHAMP MORRIS EAST

Two Dreams Come True, One To Go

By Joseph C. Tintle

All of his life, Morris East wondered about the father who had walked out on him when he was just six months old. Last year, when it became apparent to the 20-year-old fighter that he was on the verge of getting some answers, he began to dream about the day when he and his father would meet.

During those painfully reflective moments, East asked himself all sorts of questions. Was his father short or tall? Thin or fat? Was he kind and gentle? What did he do for a living? But above all, the WBA junior welterweight champion wanted to know *where* his father was, and *why* he had left him behind in the city of Olongapo, the Philippines, in January 1973.

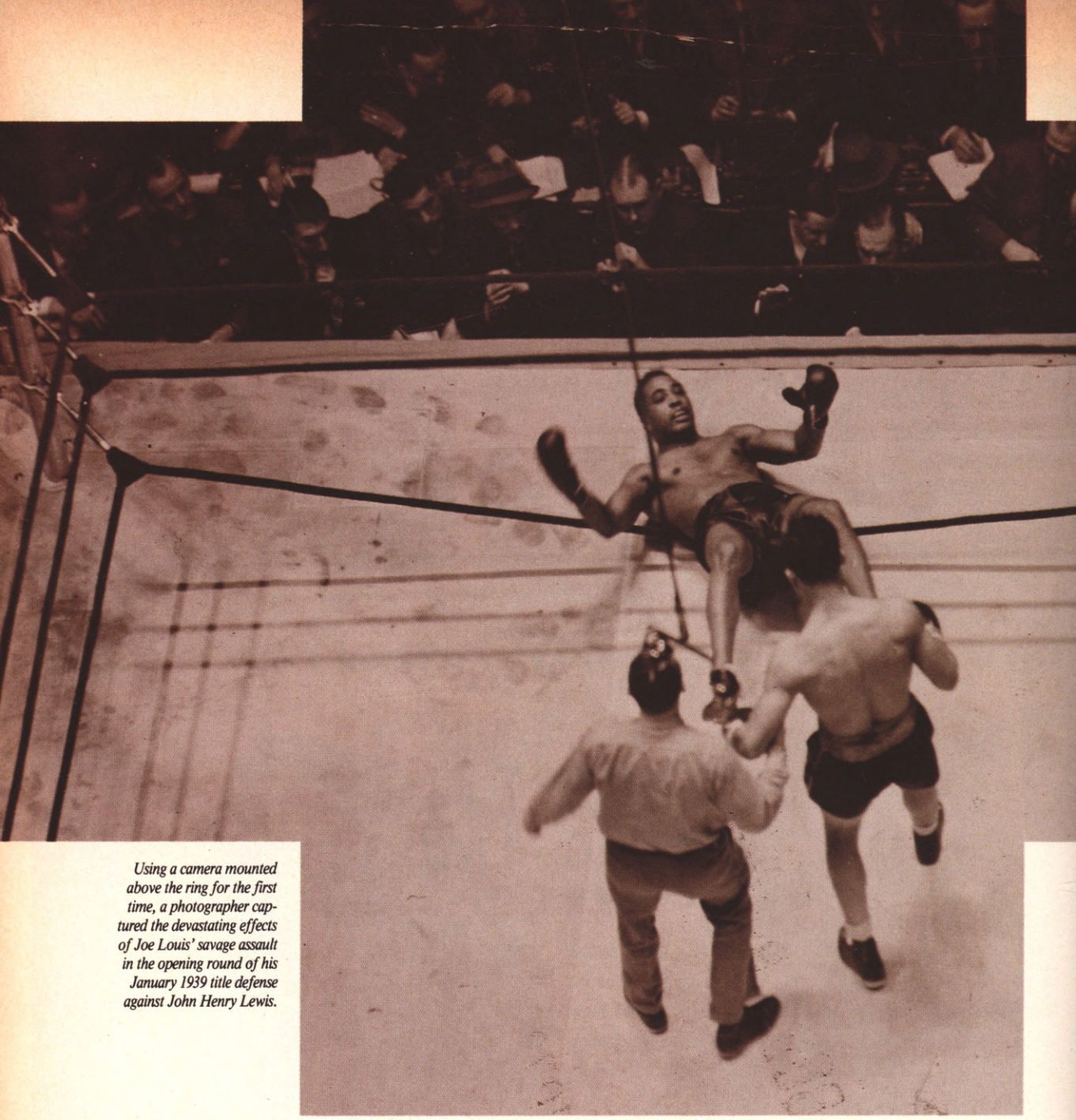
Stories about East's search for his father first appeared in a few newspapers and *The Ring* last year, but it wasn't until two days before Thanksgiving that he finally reunited with his father. His name is John East.

Their meeting was set up thanks to the efforts of East's American half-sister, Christy Johnson, who spoke with Morris by telephone in September, one week after he had fulfilled another of his dreams: stopping Akinobu Hiranaka to become a world champion.

Johnson, who lives in San Diego, had read the news accounts about the fighter in search of his father. When she realized that he might be her half-brother, she spoke with East by telephone and told him where he could find their father.

(Continued on page 63)

Top left: In September, East scored a one-punch kayo of defending WBA junior welterweight champion Akinobu Hiranaka. Top right: Two months later, he was reunited with his father in Oakland, California.



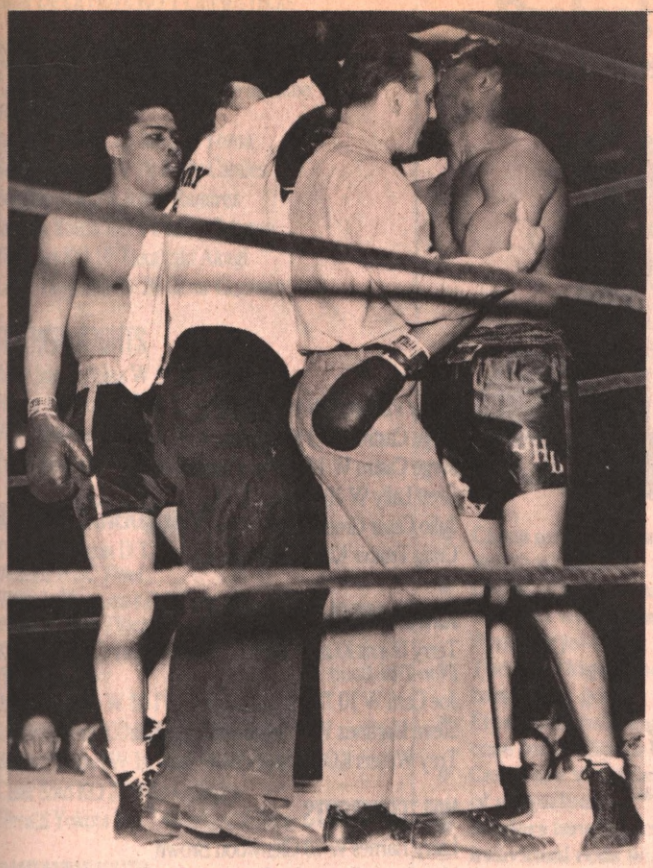
Using a camera mounted above the ring for the first time, a photographer captured the devastating effects of Joe Louis' savage assault in the opening round of his January 1939 title defense against John Henry Lewis.

WHEN LOUIS MET LEWIS . . . IT BROKE

G-Man J. Edgar Hoover sat in the first row of Madison Square Garden on the night of January 25, 1939, and watched a public "murder" without raising a protective hand. That what J. Edgar saw was strictly legal and widely publicized made it scarcely less lethal.

Joe Louis, the hardest-hitting fist fighter of his generation, was all wrapped up in the task at hand—banging the bejeepers out of his old pal, John Henry Lewis, before a sell-out crowd. The whole thing was over after 2 minutes 29 seconds—"real quick," just as champion Joe said it would be when he mumbled before the fight, "John Henry needs the payday, and I'm glad I could help him out. The quicker a fight ends, the less chance for anybody to get hurt."

Lost in the vast throng, as he edged his way closer and closer to the dazzling ring, was a little ecclesiatic-looking man with an iron gray fringe of hair circling his head. The fighters were in the ring, being introduced by Harry Balogh, when the old man finally found an empty seat in the fifth row. But he had no ticket, and as the fighters went back to their corners, an usher told him to get up and disappear.



Referee Arthur Donovan helps Lewis to his feet after the brutal knockout. The challenger didn't fully regain his senses until returning to his dressing room.

Lewis (left) was an exceptionally talented world light heavyweight champion who encountered little competition in his own division. John Henry and his father (below) after he won the 175-pound crown from Bob Olin in 1935. Louis and Lewis at the signing ceremony for their heavyweight title bout, which was "The Brown Bomber's" fifth defense (bottom).

John Henry Lewis' dad was at ringside the night Joe Louis committed legal mayhem on his son

FATHER'S HEART

The old man did. You could see a torn place in his worn trousers as he walked down the aisle looking for another unoccupied seat. You also noticed a tiny red and white emblem in his lapel signifying honorable service in the Spanish-American War. This was the father of John Henry Lewis, who had traveled by bus all the way from his home in Phoenix, Arizona, to be with his boy when he faced the terrible ring killer.

The old man was justifiably tense and nervous. He

(Continued on page 66)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Ray Mercer KO 2 Wimpy Halstead
Tony Tucker KO 6 Frankie Swindell
Alex Garcia W 12 Jerry Jones
Alex Garcia KO 8 Ossie Ocasio
Tony Tubbs W 10 Jesse Ferguson
Oliver McCall KO 3 Poncho Carter
Dave Dixon KO 1 Joey Christjohn
Greg Page KO 8 K.P. Porter
Lionel Butler KO 5 John Morton
Tyrell Biggs W 10 Marion Wilson
Pinklon Thomas W 12 Craig Payne
Mike Weaver KO 5 Mike Gans
Dannell Nicholson KO 1 Donald Blake

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Orlin Norris KO 5 David Sewell
Arthur Williams KO 11 Yuri Vaulin
Norbert Ekassi KO 2 Mohammed Bouchiche
Craig Bodzianowski KO 6 Joe Brewer
Vincent Boulware KO 9 Fred Adams
Frankie Swindell KO 5 Dan Ward
Kenny Keene KO 10 Ed Stewart
Joseph Chingangu KO 2 Tom Collins

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jeff Harding W 12 David Vedder
(Retains WBC Title)
Egerton Marcus KO 11 Art Baylis
Fabrice Tiozzo W 8 Ramzi Hassan

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Nigel Benn KO 11 Nicky Piper
(Retains WBC Title)
Iran Barkley KO 4 Robert Folley
(Non-Title Bout)
Chris Eubank W 12 Juan Carlos Gimenez
Darrin Van Horn W 10 Ricky Thomas
Lindell Holmes W 10 Ralph Moncrief
Robert Britt W 12 Nicky Walker
Roberto Duran KO 2 Ken Hulsey

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Julian Jackson KO 4 Eddie Hall
(Non-Title Bout)
James Toney KO 6 Doug DeWitt
(Non-Title Bout)
Roy Jones KO 4 Percy Harris
Bernard Hopkins KO 1 Wayne Powell
Vinny Pazienza W 10 Luis Santana
Jorge Castro KO 3 Sergio Ronconi
Jorge Castro W 10 Hector Lescano
Brett Lally W 10 Tyrone Trice
Julio Cesar Green KO 8 Willie Douglas
Craig Trotter KO 9 Thomas Mika

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Terry Norris KO 3 Pat Lawlor
(Non-Title Bout)
Joe Gatti W 10 Terry Whitaker
Steve Martinez W 10 Miguel Dominguez
Troy Waters KO 3 Jose Ochoa

WELTERWEIGHTS

Larry Barnes W 10 Glenwood Brown
Manning Galloway No-Contest 1 Gert Bo Jacobsen
Pat Barrett KO 1 Tomas Quinones
Kevin Pompey W 12 Buck Smith
Spike Cheney KO 9 Attila Fogas
Hector Vilte KO 10 Mario Moreno
Vinnie Letizia KO 3 Reggie Strickland
Darren Dyer KO 9 Chris Peters

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 6 Marty Jakubowski
(Non-Title Bout)
Pernell Whitaker KO 1 Benny Baez
(Non-Title Bout)
Greg Haugen W 10 Armando Campas
Charles Murray KO 2 Juan Ramon Cruz
Ike Quartey KO 1 Jose Lugo
Andy Holligan W 10 Mark Smith
Lonnie Smith W 10 Ismael Diaz
Carl Griffith W 12 Mike Evgen
John Duplessis KO 4 Roosevelt Ed Malone
Paul Dennard KO 5 Vinny Burgese
Danny Myburgh KO 7 Juma Kutondo
Lester Ellis KO 2 Camelo Balabo
Vernon Forrest KO 1 Charles Hawkins Jr.

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Darryll Tyson
(Retains WBC Title)
Jean-Baptiste Mendy W 12 Paul Burke
Kenny Baysmore W 12 David Sample
Nazarov Olzubek KO 5 Earnie Alesna
Rowdy Welch Tech. Dec. 3 Ezequiel Guzman

Mauro Gutierrez W 10 Eusebio Pedroza
Ramon Marchena W 12 Luis Mora
Oscar De La Hoya KO 1 Lamar Williams
Oscar De La Hoya KO 1 Clifford Hicks

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Genaro Hernandez KO 6 Yuji Watanabe
(Retains WBA Title)
Regilio Tuur W 12 Jacobin Yoma
Renato Cornett W 10 Rudy Cabiles
Ben Lopez KO 4 Jorge Ramirez
Jacobin Yoma KO 6 Danilo Cabrera
Tiger Ari KO 10 Takayaki Akagi
Lance Holcomb W 10 Cesar Guzman

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Baby Sugar Rojas W 12 Cedric Mingo
Hector Lizarraga Tech. Dec. 3 Vicente Gonzalez
Pete Taliaferro KO 2 Sylvester Kennon
Pete Taliaferro W 12 Barrington Francis

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Tracy Patterson D 12 Daniel Zaragoza
(Retains WBC Title)
Wilfredo Vasquez KO 8 Thierry Jacob
(Retains WBA Title)
Kennedy McKinney KO 11 Welcome Ncita
(Wins IBF Title)
Julio Gervacio W 10 Pepillo Valdez
Luis Mendoza KO 2 Edgar Rodriguez
Richard Duran W 10 Max Maldonado
Cesar Soto KO 3 Otillo Gallegos
Hiroaki Yokota KO 7 Ricarte Cainiera

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Javier Leon KO 3 Jose Luis Vegagil
Maui Diaz KO 10 Raul Contreras
Johnny Armour KO 5 Albert Musankabala

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Armando Castro
(Retains WBA Title)

FLYWEIGHTS

Phichit Sithbangprachan KO 3 Rodolfo Blanco
(Wins IBF Title)
Jose Luis Zepeda W 12 Scotty Olson
Robbie Regan W 12 Salvatore Fanni
Rolando Pascua KO 9 Toshio Aikawa

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Michael Carbajal KO 8 Robinson Cuesta
(Retains IBF Title)
Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Melchor Cob Castro
(Retains WBC Title)
Myung Woo Yuh W 12 Hiroki Ioka
(Regains WBA Title)
Ala Villamor KO 2 Napa Kiatwanchai
Eric Griffin KO 3 Aureo Dominguez

STRAWWEIGHTS

Rattanapol Sorvorapin W 12 Manny Melchor
(Wins IBF Title)
Kermin Guardia KO 2 Daniel Montiel
Kermin Guardia W 10 Seferino Sanchez
Chana Porpaoin KO 6 Texas Gomez
Andy Tabanas KO 7 Boy Dignos

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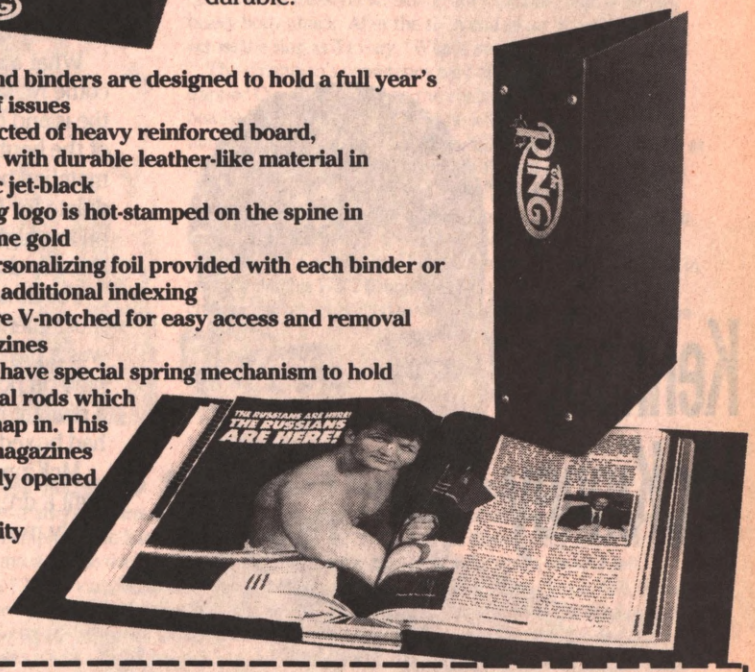

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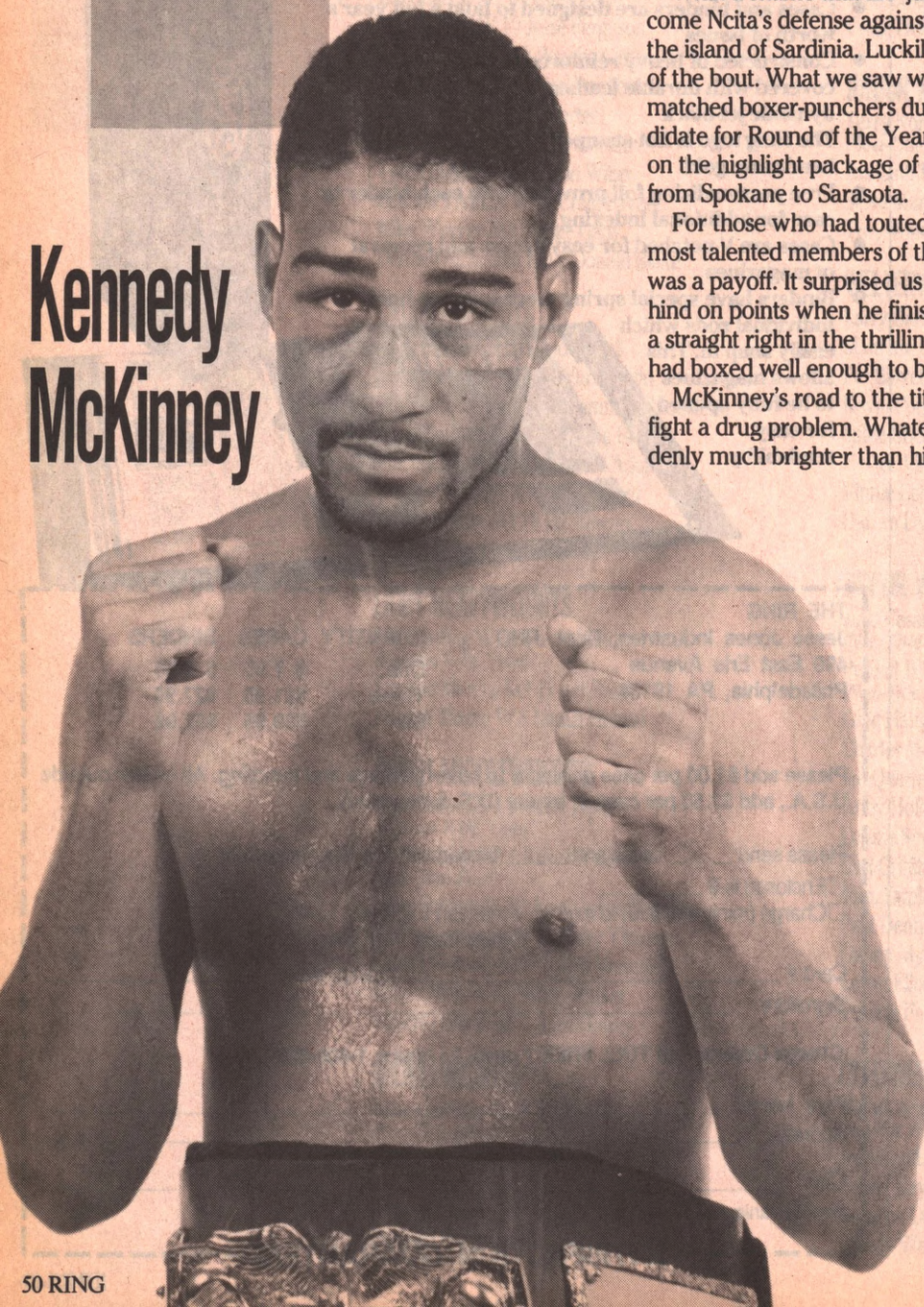
Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH



Kennedy McKinney

What a shame that IBF junior featherweight champion Welcome Ncita's defense against Kennedy McKinney was hidden on the island of Sardinia. Luckily, *The Ring* was able to obtain a tape of the bout. What we saw was not only a pair of young and evenly matched boxer-punchers dueling at a terrific pace, but also a candidate for Round of the Year, and a one-punch kayo that belonged on the highlight package of every evening news sports anchor from Spokane to Sarasota.

For those who had touted McKinney as one of the two or three most talented members of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team, the fight was a payoff. It surprised us to learn that the gold medalist was behind on points when he finished the South African champion with a straight right in the thrilling 11th round. We thought McKinney had boxed well enough to build a lead on points.

McKinney's road to the title has been choppy—he continues to fight a drug problem. Whatever 1993 may bring, his future is suddenly much brighter than his past.

Myung Woo Yuh W 12 Hiroki Ioka

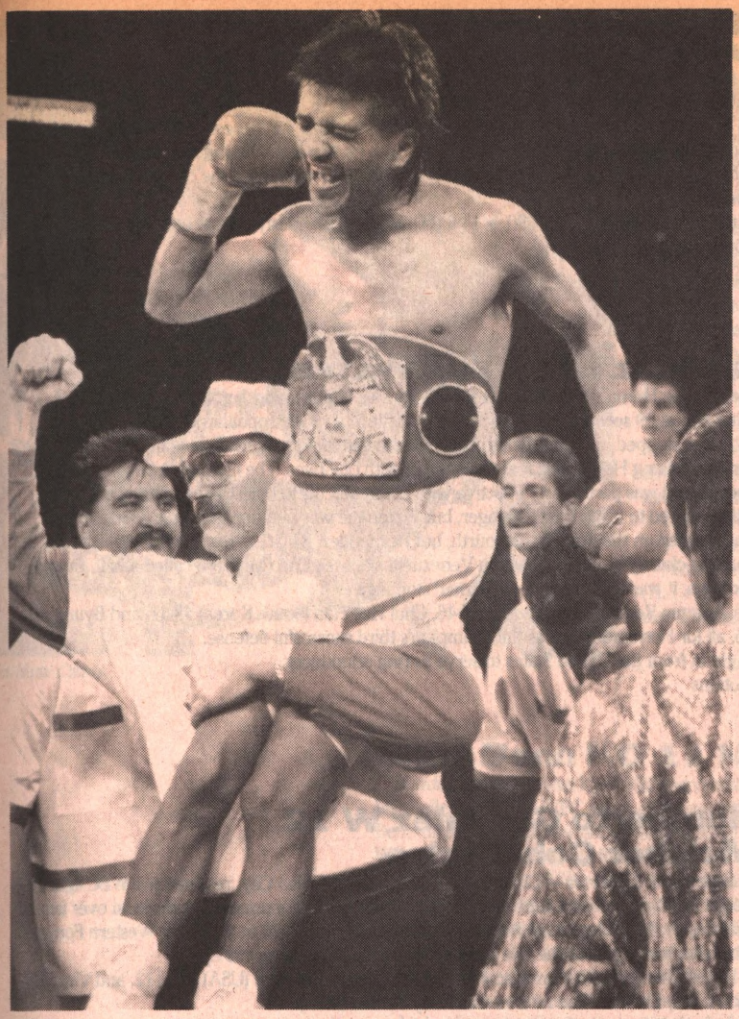
Osaka, Japan—South Korea's Yuh, 108, displayed exceptional determination in regaining the WBA junior flyweight title by majority decision at the Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium. The 23-year-old Ioka, 108, had dethroned Yuh in December 1991. This was the Japanese's third defense, and Yuh's first bout since his sole career loss.

Though rusty, Yuh, 28, was aggressive from the start. The 5'7½" Ioka foolishly failed to utilize his jab, and waited for single shots. Meanwhile, Yuh forced a steady pace, and in round eight, even outjabbed the champion.

Yuh dominated the ninth through the 12th and seemed a clear winner. Antonio Requena (Venezuela) scored 119-111, Manuel Gonzalez (Panama) 117-112, and Lou Tabat (USA) 114-114. The referee was Silvestre Abainza of the Philippines.

For Yuh, 37-1 (14), the victory was sweet revenge; he had made 17 successful defenses before losing to Ioka. Ioka, 21-3-1 (9), said he planned to rise to flyweight and seek his third different world title.

Promoter: Green Tsuda Promotions
(11-18-92)
Joe Koizumi



Carbajal wanted this one badly

Michael Carbajal KO 8 Robinson Cuesta

Phoenix, Arizona—IBF junior flyweight champion Carbajal, 108, Phoenix, reaffirmed his position as one of boxing's most exciting performers by battering durable number-one contender Cuesta, 107, Panama, in the inaugural card at the America West Arena. The attendance: a whopping state-record 15,251.

Carbajal was in top form for this, his sixth defense, but the 5'8" challenger proved stubborn. Cuesta took the first round, scoring with jabs and punching to the body from odd angles. In the second, Carbajal began to increase the volume of his own body attack, and followed with stinging rights. By the third, he had found his range, and a series of lefts dropped Cuesta on his back. The Panamanian's eyes were still spinning when he was saved by the bell.

Cuesta remained shaky for the rest of the bout. There was quite a bit of freestyle wrestling, but Carbajal maintained his heavy body attack. After the sixth and seventh, he looked across the ring as if to say, "What's keeping this guy up?"

The champion's persistence paid off in the eighth, when he trapped Cuesta, 23-1 (15), in the challenger's corner. Wicked bombs spun Cuesta's head, and he fell once more. He picked himself up, but referee Al Muñoz wisely waved the bout over at the 2:04 mark, prompting an indoor fireworks display.

"He had all the heart in the world," said Carbajal, 27-0 (15), "but I wanted to prove something. No one in the world can go to the body like me. I wanted the kayo very bad."

Afterward, Carbajal and his entourage chanted "Chiquita," in reference to his WBC counterpart, Humberto Gonzalez. The champions are scheduled to clash in a long-awaited unification battle in March.

(12-12-92)

Phil Woolever

Tracy Patterson D 12 Daniel Zaragoza

Berck Sur Mer, France—Patterson's first defense of the WBC super bantamweight title was tougher than expected. The aggressive champion, who had scored a first-round knockdown in his title-winning effort vs. Thierry Jacob last June, found himself on the deck in the opening moments, courtesy of a Zaragoza counter left.

The quicker Zaragoza, 122, Mexico, used exceptional footwork to avoid the same fate as Jacob. Still, Patterson, 121½, 46-2-1 (34), was hardly impotent. Crisp punches in round two opened a nasty cut over the challenger's left eye. Excellent work by Zaragoza's cutman, Ignacio Berestain, prevented the cut from becoming a factor.

By the third round, it was evident that Zaragoza's superior speed would offset Patterson's advantage in punching power. The Mexican southpaw, 44-6-2 (21), won rounds four and five, catching the champion with long lefts. Patterson came on to win the middle rounds, but his punches weren't causing the damage he had hoped.

The fans jumped to their feet in round nine, when the 33-year-old Zaragoza, a former two-division world champion, tagged Patterson flush on the face. But the American's heavier punches enabled him to win the 10th and 11th. With the crowd cheering him on, an inspired Zaragoza boxed masterfully in the 12th, and even taunted Patterson. It seemed to most ringsiders that the belt would change hands. But, ironically, the closeness of the bout was reflected by the disparity in the scoring: Fernando Peredes (Spain) scored for Zaragoza, 117-114; Furorunsho Jacob (Nigeria) scored for Patterson, 118-111; and Lazaro Carrasco (Spain) had it a draw, 116-116.

(12-5-92)

Wilfredo Vasquez KO 8 Thierry Jacob

Berck Sur Mer, France—Jacob, 121¼, gave an impressive performance, but his delicate skin cost him; the ringside doctor stopped the bout, which was the main support to Patterson-Zaragoza, in the eighth round due to a cut at the corner of the challenger's left eye.

WBA junior featherweight champion Vasquez, 122, had trouble coping with the southpaw's slick style, and it looked as though the Puerto Rican's second defense would be his last. Apparently over his devastating kayo loss to Patterson, Jacob, 38-4 (20), established control early in the fight. The Frenchman displayed his superior skills in rounds three through five. He scored with quick flurries, as well as an occasional hard left. Moreover, when the former champion wasn't punching, his footwork enabled him to keep out of danger. By the end of the fifth, Vasquez, 35-6-3 (29), had become frustrated with his inability to corner the Frenchman and unleash his feared hook.

A hard right opened the critical cut in round six. Initially, the wound did not seem to bother Jacob. But the cut worsened in the seventh, and Jacob abandoned his strategy and tried desperately to end the fight. Vasquez excelled during the subsequent toe-to-toe exchanges, and suddenly, the end seemed imminent.

A desperate Jacob came out for the eighth and connected with several hard lefts, but his blood continued to flow, and after a brief examination, the bout was waved over by referee Uriel Aguilera.

(12-5-92)

Phichit Sithbangprachan KO 3 Rodolfo Blanco

Samut Prakarn, Thailand—Colombian Blanco's reign as IBF flyweight champion ended after just 5½ months at the hands of the unbeaten and unheralded Sithbangprachan, who scored a clean kayo by landing a hook-right combination at the Convention Hall of Imperial World Shopping Center.

The local favorite boxed cautiously in the first round, trading stinging jabs with the 32-year-old champion. The inexperienced Thai, who was rated third, accelerated in the second, with Blanco absorbing minor damage. In the third, the slow-moving Sithbangprachan worked Blanco to the ropes, where he unleashed the deciding blows. Blanco failed to beat the count.

Sithbangprachan, who turned pro in November 1990, is 13-0 (11). He had previously beaten only mediocre foreign opposition. Blanco dropped to 27-7-1 (18).

(11-29-92)

Joe Koizumi

Genaro Hernandez KO 6 Yuji Watanabe

Tokyo, Japan—Lanky Californian Hernandez, 130, proved too ringwise in punishing Japanese golden boy Watanabe, 129½, and halting him at 59 seconds of the sixth round at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium.

The 22-year-old Watanabe had stopped his 10 previous opponents, including former featherweight champion Steve Cruz. He started strongly, stalking Hernandez and threatening with one-twos. The champion began attacking midway through the second and was particularly effective with left uppercuts to both the head and body. Hernandez' aggressive tactics seemed to favor the challenger, but Watanabe was outpunched throughout.

Watanabe, 10-1 (10), concentrated on the body in the fourth, but Hernandez, 27-0 (13), responded with double- and triple-hooks. He was landing cleanly in the sixth, when Venezuelan referee Enzo Montero called a halt. Even though there was no knockdown, it was considered a well-timed stoppage.

Scoring after five rounds: Antonio Requena (Venezuela) 49-46, Chul Hee Han (South Korea) 48-47, and Byung Ki Kim (South Korea) 49-46, all for Hernandez. It was the champion's third successful defense.

Michael Buffer was brought in from the United States to serve as ring announcer.

Promoter: Misako Promotions

(11-20-92)

Joe Koizumi

Chiquita looks toward Carbajal

Humberto Gonzalez W 12 Melchor Cob Castro

Inglewood, California—"Chiquita" Gonzalez, 108, Mexico City, retained the WBC light flyweight title for the fourth time of his second reign, scoring a unanimous decision over familiar rival Castro, 108, Campeche, Mexico, before a crowd of 5,070 at the Great Western Forum. (Gonzalez had regained the title by outpointing Castro in June 1991.)

David Chong (South Korea) scored 117-111, Henry Elespuru (USA) 117-112, and Vince Delgado (USA) 115-113. The referee was Rudy Jordan (USA).

As in their first meeting, the bout turned out to be a disappointment. There was little sustained action, with both fighters showing too much respect for each other. Gonzalez was often out of range, and Castro spent much of his time running away. Maybe it was simply a bad mix of two southpaws, or perhaps the countrymen knew too much about each other.

Despite the lack of action, Castro still finished with cuts over both eyes, and Gonzalez' left eye was swollen and nearly closed.

Gonzalez deserved the verdict because he at least tried to force the pace. Only in rounds six and seven did Castro show any aggression, moving in and out and flashing fast hands.

In the eighth, Castro, 35-4-4 (15), suffered his first cut, over the right eye. He turned to Jordan, claiming a butt, but received no sympathy. From that point on, he faded badly, and Gonzalez, 35-1 (26), took the remaining rounds, though Castro rallied briefly in the 12th.

Castro called the decision "a robbery." Gonzalez countered, "He runs a lot. The people know who won."

Chiquita's next bout will be a long-awaited unification vs. IBF champion Michael Carbajal in March.

(12-7-92)

David Wood

Miguel Angel Gonzalez W 12 Darryll Tyson

Mexico City, Mexico—Young Gonzalez showed he deserves attention as perhaps the world's best 135-pounder when the unbeaten 22-year-old Mexican whipped the veteran Tyson, Washington, D.C., in his first defense of the WBC lightweight title. Gonzalez captured a unanimous decision in a no-knockdown duel at the El Toreo de Cuatro Caminos. Vincent Rainone (USA) scored 120-108, and Jose Juan Guerra (Mexico) and Harold Lawrence (Aruba) both saw it 118-110.

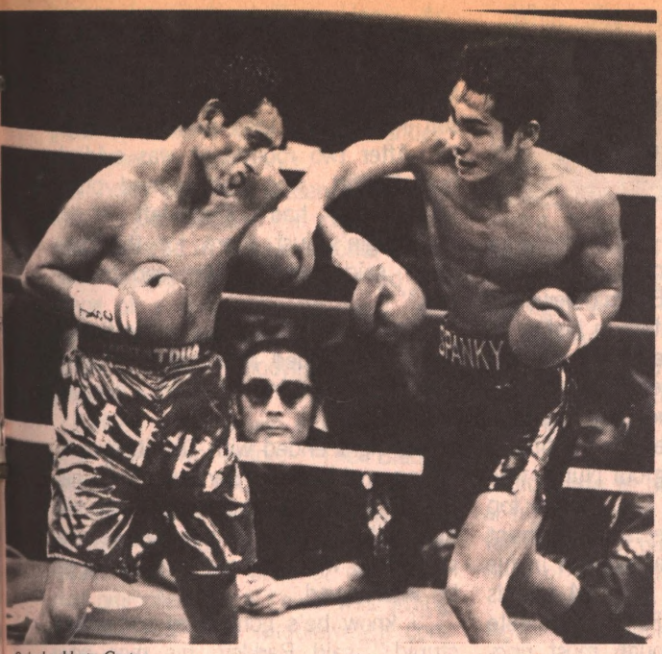
Gonzalez, 27-0 (24), used his height and reach advantages to hold off and frustrate the 32-year-old challenger. He piled up points by firing jabs, hooks, and uppercuts. Tyson seemed to believe he'd need a knockout to win in Mexico, and he looked for the big punch from the start. The American did connect midway through the sixth with a powerful right to the chin, followed by a right to the head, but Gonzalez punched back to keep him from taking full advantage.

By the 11th round, Tyson's right eye was swollen nearly shut. He was also bleeding from a cut inside his mouth. Gonzalez was virtually unmarked.

Tyson earned $15,000. Gonzalez made $40,000. His next defense is expected to be in February, possibly in Japan, where he reportedly has an offer to fight an opponent to be named for $370,000.

(12-5-92)

Bruce Williams



Onizuka blasts Castro

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Armando Castro

Tokyo, Japan—Unbeaten Japanese speedster Onizuka, 115, exchanged hot rallies with Mexico's "Monstruo" Castro, 115, and retained the WBA junior bantamweight crown for the second time by unanimous decision before some 9,000 spectators at Ariake Coliseum.

The 22-year-old Onizuka, 21-0 (17), displayed progress in outpunching the rough-and-tumble challenger. Castro, however, started quickly, hurting the champion with an overhand right in the first round and pinning him to the ropes. He punched for the first two minutes, but Onizuka covered up and survived the round.

The lanky Japanese began to box effectively in the second, when he scored with jabs and straight rights. Despite a steady flow of blood from his nose, he piled up points in every session thereafter. Castro, 39-13-2 (34), was game throughout, but couldn't catch his foe, who used his five-inch height advantage well. The Mexican suffered a gash on his left brow in the seventh. He rallied briefly in the ninth, but failed to sustain his momentum.

Luis Rivera (USA) scored 119-108, Medardo Villalobos (Panama) 119-113, and Wan Soo Yuh (South Korea) 118-111.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions

(12-12-92)

Joe Koizumi

Nigel Benn KO 11 Nicky Piper

London, England—An IQ of 153 and membership in Mensa proved little benefit to Piper in his challenge for the WBC super middleweight title at Alexandra Palace. A slightly subdued Benn displayed sufficient brawn to overcome the brain power of his opponent. However, the Welshman fared admirably in what was his first venture into top-class combat.

The 6'2¾" Piper, 167¾, 16-2-1 (14), held his own over the first six rounds, capitalizing on a five-inch height advantage. Benn, 167¾, 30-2 (28), seemed perplexed, though he continuously hammered hooks into the challenger's well-defined midriff.

The first sign that this strategy was productive came toward the end of the seventh, when Piper was rocked by a hard right, which initiated a punishing salvo of hooks and uppercuts. Piper made no response. He managed to avoid further abuse in the eighth by sticking his jab and tying Benn up. But by the ninth, the inevitability of his collapse was apparent as he was nailed time and again. Still, he stubbornly refused to yield.

Saturation point was reached in round 11. A solid right set up Piper for a cruel hook, which catapulted him into the ropes before he sheepishly slid to the floor. He hauled himself up at the count of eight but was a spent force, and Benn's sustained onslaught brought referee Larry O'Connell's intervention at the 1:44 mark. (At the time of the stoppage, Benn was ahead on two cards and one point behind on the third.)

Following his first defense of the title, Benn made a surprising demand as a condition to his eagerly awaited rematch with countryman Chris Eubank: "I'll fight him for £1-million and not a penny less."

Judges: Adrian Morgan, Mickey Vann, and Paul Thomas (all from Great Britain).

Promoter: Matchroom

(12-12-92)

Brian Doogan

Kennedy McKinney KO 11 Welcome Ncita

Tortoli, Sardinia—On this island off the coast of Italy, McKinney, 121¼, added the IBF junior featherweight title to his 1988 Olympic gold medal, knocking out South Africa's Ncita, 121¾, at the 2:30 mark of round 11. At the time of the stoppage, Ncita, who was making his seventh defense, led on the cards by one, two, and three points. (*The Ring* had McKinney ahead by two points.)

It was a spirited battle from the start, with the Las Vegas-based McKinney striking from long range with jabs and crosses, and Ncita answering with hooks and body blows. Both fighters were particularly active, and both showed excellent defenses.

Needing to work his way inside, Ncita forced the pace. McKinney's right hands were the difference until the eighth and ninth, when Ncita began to lose his punching technique. But he broke through toward the end of the 10th, stunning the challenger with a big right. McKinney hung on until the bell.

The 11th was a fantastic round. When Ncita landed a right and a hook, McKinney, his face marked and his right eye cut, walked away and dropped to the canvas.

"I figured I'd better go to one knee, rather than keep fighting and maybe get really hurt," he said. "I thought I did the smart thing."

After referee Steve Smoger's mandatory count, McKinney, 22-0-1 (14), began fighting back. A toe-to-toe exchange resulted, with Ncita, 31-1 (14), gaining an edge. Then, suddenly, McKinney fired a straight right off the ropes. The blow caught Ncita flush, and he took the full count while lying on his left side.

"He came out in the 11th like he was trying to knock me out," said the 26-year-old McKinney. "I guess he thought he had me."

(12-2-92) ■

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Toney-Barkley

(Continued from page 43)

heavyweight title by split decision. Barkley, who had knocked out Hearns in 1988 to win the WBC middleweight title, is one of 14 fighters in history to win world titles in three weight classes.

Despite chronic weight problems, Toney is arguably the best middleweight in the world. He won the title in May 1991 by knocking out Nunn, who was then considered the sport's top 160-pounder. Toney decisioned current WBA champion Reggie Johnson in his first defense, and has gone 24 rounds with future Hall of Fame candidate Mike McCallum. Although most ringsiders felt Toney beat "The Bodysnatcher" in their first fight, he was held to a controversial draw. Eight months later, he decisioned McCallum in a rematch.

Barkley, 30-7 (18), is an aggressive brawler who smothers opponents with punches. Toney, 33-0-2 (22), is a smooth counterpuncher. Their styles should mesh nicely, and the fact that they both have outstanding chins should further assure a war of attrition. For this kind of fight, they'll be standing five-deep around the flagpole.

"In this day and age, it's rare that two world champions will step into the ring against each other," said Ron Katz, Arum's East Coast matchmaker. "It's really a fight fan's fight. There is so much at stake here. Toney is starting to reach his prime, and Barkley has been as good as he's ever been in his career. Maybe better."

But the champions' respective ring credentials are not the only elements adding intrigue to this fight. Their roots have greatly influenced the kind of warriors they've become, and made them angry at the world, if not one another. Consider this: Barkley is a former streetgang member from New York City's vicious South Bronx section, and Toney spent a portion of his youth in Ann Arbor, Michigan, as a gun-packing drug dealer.

In December, Barkley and Toney fought tuneups on a card at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City. Barkley outgunned veteran Robert Folley in four rounds and then retreated to his dressing room to watch Toney pound out an unwilling Doug DeWitt in six.

Surrounded by his three young daughters, trainer Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, and several other camp and family members, Barkley perched himself in front of a large-screen TV monitor. After two rounds, it was evident that DeWitt, who has sparred often with Barkley, had nothing left.

"Dougie's just there for the payday," said Barkley. "I'm sad to see this."

"Doug is making this guy the fighter he's not," added Muhammad. "Doug ain't doing nothing. He's in a survival mode."

The fight ended with DeWitt surrendering on his stool. Barkley felt for his friend, but also understood that his fight with Toney was now secure. He perked up when his rival was about to be interviewed.

"I know he's gonna say something stupid," said Barkley, his rage now building.

An uneasiness hung in the room, as if a defendant were waiting for a verdict. Finally, HBO's Larry Merchant asked Toney about Barkley.

"I like Iran personally," he replied. "He did it like I did it. He came up the hard way."

What, no histrionics? No threats? Could Toney be intimidated already? Or was this the calm before the storm?

If you listen to Barkley, it was Toney who initially called for this war—and Toney who has blinked first. At the press conference following Toney's August win over McCallum, he challenged Barkley "right now." Barkley got up and asserted, "You don't know who the [expletive] you're messing with." Toney then sat down.

"I have not seen anyone who can scare or intimidate James," said his manager, Jackie Kallen. "He's just not the type of person who can be intimidated. I think with that incident, James didn't know yet that Barkley was his next opponent. He kind of laughed at the whole thing."

He's not laughing now.

"We're talking about a couple of very short fuses," said Katz. "Barkley is the epitome of a New York tough guy. Obviously, he's from the school of hard knocks. And Toney is almost a mirror image. But I think Toney is maturing. Only when he is provoked will he jump into the fire."

In December, the Barkley camp drenched the flames with gasoline. Arum showcased the fighters and added a third 10-rounder in which middleweight sensation Roy Jones, perhaps a future opponent for the Barkley-Toney

winner, knocked out Percy Harris. Arum's only mistake of the night—or perhaps his shrewdest marketing ploy—came when he held a postfight press conference with Toney, Barkley, and Jones in attendance.

A heavy security presence blended with the journalists in the room. Toney, who appeared in trunks, a robe, and a black leather do-rag that formed the shape of a crown on his head, was surrounded by his entourage, which included 6'7" bodyguard Andre Williams.

Barkley and Toney engaged in a brief *glare*down before "The Blade" stepped to the podium for questions. Williams moved to occupy the two feet between Barkley and Toney's seat. Meanwhile, in the back of the room, rival promoter Butch Lewis was sitting with the IBF's top middleweight contender, Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins. Their company was two masked, tuxedo-clad "executioners."

"I want to retire Toney from boxing," said Barkley. "We're on like popcorn. I ain't shutting my mouth for nothing. I want James Toney, that's the man standing in my way. That's the man I want to tear down. February 13 will be his last fight. From the ring to the morgue."

Lewis interrupted and asked Barkley to send Toney to The Executioner.

"I'll send him back executed," answered Barkley.

Suddenly, Muhammad, a former WBA light heavyweight champion, realized Williams was staring down his fighter. He jumped from his seat and lunged at the bodyguard. Barkley and the Taj security staff restrained Muhammad, but he broke free and was smothered a second time. Muhammad, who is experienced in hyping big fights, seemingly allowed himself to be tied up before he was able to launch any punches. With Muhammad's point driven home in full view of the drooling media, a dozen security guards rushed the dais and removed the Barkley camp from the room.

When order was restored, it was Toney's turn.

"Number one, as far as the [expletive] in the back of the room, Butch Lewis is a punk [expletive] and he can kiss my black ass. We can do it right here."

Another shouting match ensued, and then the *Toney* camp was escorted out by security guards. High drama or great theater? Does it really matter which?

While the combatants left many questions unanswered in December, what follows are some of the questions they'll have to answer on February 13.

● **The Weight:** After his last couple of defenses, Toney has expressed a strong desire to fight at 168 pounds. Against Dave Tiberi, he was seven pounds overweight three days before the fight, and in a defense vs. Francisco Dell'Aquila, he was permitted to scale at 160½. (Toney initially weighed in at 164½.)

Toney scaled 168 against DeWitt, and the super middleweight division could prove to be a haven. Fighting at a higher weight, though, also means facing harder punches and the possibility of a reduction of his own power.

"James felt great at the DeWitt fight," said Kallen. "He feels stronger and more effective at super middleweight. In actuality, by trying to make middleweight, he's been draining his strength."

Barkley, who weighed 178 for his fight against Folley, did not appear concerned about getting back down to 168.

"I'm not going to have no trouble making 168," he said. "I can fight at both weights. I'm gonna defend this title until I get rid of everybody in this division."

● **Skills:** Probably Toney's biggest edge. He's a slick counterpuncher with a sneaky hook. Toney, who has shown flashes of power throughout his career, has dueled with master boxers Nunn, McCallum, and Johnson, and confounded punchers Merqui Sosa and Glenn Wolfe.

Toney is technically sound on offense and defense. Although he fights in spurts, making him a nightmare to score for judges, he usually does enough combination punching and countering to be effective.

Anyone who is capable of winning three world titles must possess some talent. But Barkley is largely underrated as a technician because he perpetrates such mayhem in the ring. If he does have any skills, he usually elects not to use them. Among the fighters who have gracefully conquered Barkley are slicksters Nunn and Sumbu Kalambay.

● **Stamina:** Another question mark for Toney. He trailed on all three cards before mustering the strength to score an 11th-round knockout of Nunn, and in the first McCallum fight, he rallied

(Continued on page 56)

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Toney-Barkley

(Continued from page 55)

late and nearly scored a 12th-round knockdown. "Lights Out," however, has appeared worn out at the end of many of his recent fights. Even after his six-round sparring session with a lethargic DeWitt, he seemed to be breathing heavily.

"DeWitt was not putting any pressure on," said Barkley. "When DeWitt put the pressure on, Toney had problems."

Barkley endured a war of wills with Hearns last March and has built his career on being able to outgut and outslug his opponents. His determination has carried him to victory on the occasions that his physical tools could not. He is sure to make Toney fight for three minutes of every round.

"Toney can't come to fight for 30 seconds a round," said Muhammad. "If he's not ready, he's gonna get manhandled. He's just a 30-second fighter."

● **Ring Mileage:** At 32, and with seven losses, Barkley has survived his share of wars. Over the course of his 10-year career, he has suffered serious injuries and devastating losses. The New Yorker has undergone two surgical procedures to repair a detached retina in his left eye, and a third to remove a cataract from the same eye.

Each fight could be his last. The 24-year-old Toney, currently in his prime, certainly has the ability to permanently retire Barkley. But the Toney camp realizes that overconfidence has cost some of Barkley's previous foes.

"Iran is a real serious threat," said Kallen. "He's probably the toughest opponent James has had. If you think he's shot or over the hill, you're in for a big surprise."

Toney has flourished while being tested by the division's best. He faced adverse conditions during the Tiberi fight, and now more than ever before should be primed for the kind of grueling war Barkley hopes to initiate.

● **Intensity:** When a hooded Barkley climbed into the ring against Folley, Muhammad was in his fighter's face, screaming about the importance of sending a message to Toney. It doesn't take much instigation to make Barkley fight, but Muhammad has been able to considerably sharpen The Blade's intensity. Before the Van Horn fight, Barkley was worked into such a rage that Muhammad had to restrain him from carving up the "Schoolboy" during the prefight introductions.

Intensity is not lacking in Toney, either. Somehow, he is able to control the adrenaline that courses through his veins. Toney remains composed when he's inside the ring; the trouble usually starts when he's outside.

When Toney is at his best, he concentrates solely on winning. The first McCallum fight was a violent chess match during which he never relaxed, but never lost his focus, either. He maintained a similar level of intensity in rallying to beat Nunn.

● **When It's Over:** The fight should live up to its hype. Contrasting styles will lead to an exciting and competitive shootout. Given the size of the fighters' hearts and their ability to absorb punishment, it will go a full 12 rounds. The difference will prove to be Barkley's pressure. Toney has fallen into a lackadaisical rhythm, and has not faced a man who will attack him with the sustained energy of Barkley. The Blade will walk away with a decision that may not be unanimous, and surely won't be pretty. But *none* of Barkley's wins are ever pretty.

"He threw the bait out and I took it," Barkley said in December, an evil grin creasing his face. "Whatever he brings to the dance, it won't be enough." ■

Fighter Of The Year

(Continued from page 39)

the tags he has carried all his life. *The Ring's* 1992 Fighter of the Year is just 25 years old, a work in progress. He is constantly setting new goals, testing out new lifestyles, reassessing values. He's a rent-a-video-and-open-a-bag-of-potato-chips kind of guy suddenly occupying the most high-profile position in sports. He's a Brooklyn street kid with a gorgeous house in the Maryland suburbs. You can't analyze him because he never stays under the lens of any particular microscope for long.

After so many of the bruising moments of his life, Bowe has soaked himself in a bathtub like he was a 6'5" jelly jar, and another label has slid right off of him. In the '88 Olympics, he

(Continued on page 59)

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When Cassius Clay made his pro debut in 1960, *The Ring* was there. When "The Greatest" fought Joe Frazier for the heavyweight title in 1971, *The Ring* was there. Before Carlos Monzon, Jose Napoles, and Roberto Duran made names for themselves, the readers of *The Ring* were already talking about them. *The Ring* covered all the boxing events and personalities of the '60s and '70s as no other magazine could—and now a limited supply of back issues from those two decades are available for $10 each (including postage and handling).

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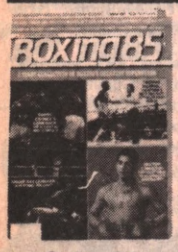

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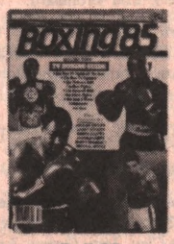

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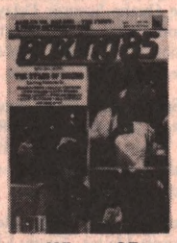

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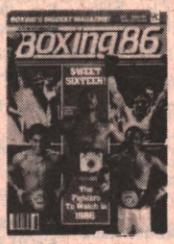

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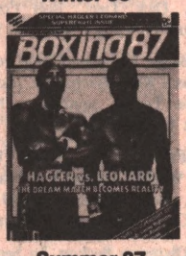

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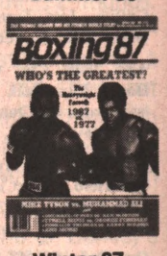

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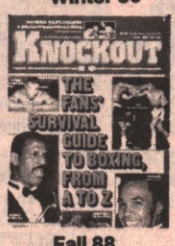

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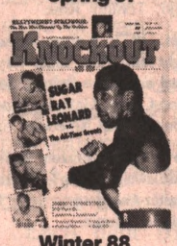

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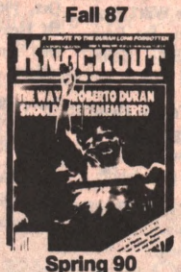

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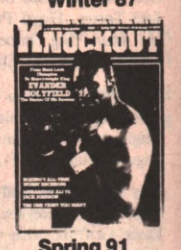

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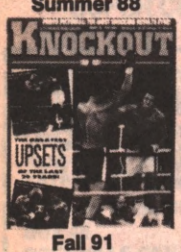

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Fighter Of The Year

(Continued from page 56)

wore his hair long, declared to the world that he was his own idol, and then got stopped in the finals by Lennox Lewis. Label: a joke. When he went looking for a manager to turn him pro, few bothered to learn if he was a contender or pretender. They just marked him, "RETURN TO SENDER."

Not many people knew, of course, that his hand was aching in Seoul, and that his soul was aching, too. Shortly before the Games, his sister, Brenda, was stabbed to death by a crack addict in Brooklyn. Bowe did his stand-up in Seoul so that he wouldn't have to do his lay down—on the bed, crying himself to sleep in his dorm room in the Olympic Village.

In those days, the laughter disguised the seriousness, but today, the seriousness often disguises the laughter. At a time when many colorful characters entertain with their personality and then disappoint in the ring, Bowe has built a record of 32-0 (27) but failed to deliver on his *other* promise, that of being the most entertaining showman since Ali.

There have been glimpses: wearing sunglasses and performing his Stevie Wonder impersonation while posing for a *Sports Illustrated* story, imitating kayo victim Bruce Seldon by yelling "I've fallen and I can't get up!" But the surface of Bowe's sense of humor hasn't been scratched. In fact, it hasn't even started to itch yet.

"When I've tried to show the happy-go-lucky side of me, I've been criticized," Bowe complains. "People didn't say I was another Ali, they just said I was trying to *copy* Ali. That's why I've held back. In due time, you'll see that funny side of me. Right now, I'm just trying to read people to see if they'll accept me."

At 5 p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon at The Plaza Hotel in Manhattan, the heavyweight champion of the world is concerned with acceptance. By 5:15, he's giving you two options: love him or leave him. And he couldn't care less if you check box A or box B.

"I'm just gonna be me," he declares when asked if he ever worries about

(Continued on page 60)

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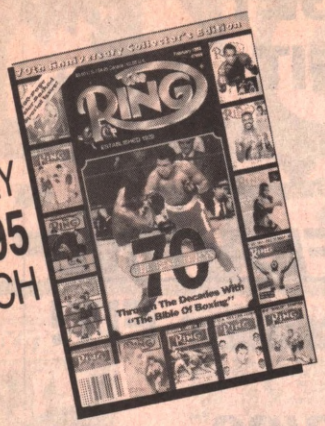

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Fighter Of The Year

(Continued from page 59)

saying the wrong thing. "I'm not gonna clam up. There's no line that I ever draw when I'm speaking. I say what I want. It may cost me money with endorsements, but, listen, money isn't everything to me. I spent 24 years without anything, so money doesn't rule my life."

For a guy whose every move was mapped out from the day he turned pro (down to his and Newman's predicting two years ahead of time the date on which he'd win the title; they were off by only 53 days), Bowe can be incredibly spontaneous. The moments immediately following his magnificent defeat of Holyfield were filled with as much bitterness as joy. Hitting Holyfield? That was nothing personal. Addressing the people who had doubted Bowe's resolve? That was as personal as you can get.

He had barely left the ring when he became embroiled in a nasty verbal exchange with guest TV analyst Lewis. Later, he called the Briton a "faggot" during the postfight press conference. It is a word that makes for great hype, but not great role models.

"People say things they don't really mean, and that was the first thing that came to mind," Bowe explains. "I got mad because Lennox is dishonest. After he beat me in the Olympics, he told me, 'The fight shouldn't have been stopped.' Now he says he knocked me out. He has a lot of envy toward me. I got more publicity than him after the Olympics and he was the *gold medalist*. But it's not my fault that he lives in Europe. And he shouldn't blame me because his people are incompetent."

Bowe is loosened up now, and whether he's talking or stalking, it's a good idea for the rest of the world's heavyweights to cover up and force a clinch. When the name of Holyfield arises, Bowe bristles. In the three weeks since he lifted the crown, he has done nothing but compliment the ex-champion. Now, he has been hearing that "The Real Deal" thinks he got a raw deal from the judges.

"Him talking like that only means one thing," Bowe says. "The ass-whuppin' wore off him. At least it took a few weeks to wear off. He deserved the decision? If *Stevie Wonder* was sitting at that fight, he could tell you that I won."

For all of Bowe's bluster and genuine toughness, there remains about him an innocence and vulnerability that the seaminess of boxing hasn't yet managed to chase away. He won't answer Lewis' demand that he fight on the challenger's terms, or the WBC's edict that he fulfill a prior agreement and defend against the Englishman. But there is one person to whom he'll never stop answering. He turns sheepish when he reveals one time that his mouth *did* get him in trouble.

It was two years ago, when his mother, Dorothy, watched him promise to kick Ray Mercer's "ass" during a TV interview.

"I said 'ass' on national TV and my mother had never heard me curse before," he remembers. "The next time I saw her, the first thing she said to me was, 'What, you think you're grown now?' "

On this day, as he squeezes in a little time to talk between posing for photos and attending a banquet, Bowe is engaging, but more serious than we've grown to expect. He is anxious to unveil the plans for his reign: a defense on the average of every two months, fights in his hometown of New York, even a willingness to take smaller purses if that means remaining active. He is more animated when discussing his childhood, speaking reverentially about the effort his mother made while raising 13 children on her job at a plastics plant.

"Never remember her ever stealing a thing," he says.

If kids who grow up in the projects with 12 siblings learn one thing, it is how to dream. Even after capturing boxing's premier prize, Bowe still has dreams, big ones, but the biggest have nothing to do with mansions, exotic pets, or a collection of foreign cars.

"I have three major plans while I'm champion," he says. "I want to do something about world hunger, I want to start a literacy program, and I want to start some kind of drug awareness program."

Bowe has made plenty of people aware of drugs in the past, but not always the way he'd like. The fighter passionately crusades against drug use, yet after many of his fights, he has been seen in the ring or at a press conference standing alongside Marion Barry, a former Washington, D.C., mayor and the star of an infamous

(Continued on page 62)

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 88/93

Beginning in 1988, this popular magazine went to an all-new format, featuring a fresh look at the fight game through the eyes of its top-notch writers, columnists, and photographers. "The Fight Fan's Magazine" has, in short time, earned recognition as one of the top boxing magazines around.

Jan. 1988: Why Marvin Hagler Must Return, By Sugar Ray Leonard. Also: Roberto Duran, Vinny Pazienza, Darrin Van Horn, Marlon Starling, Holyfield-Qawi preview.

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March 1988: A Look Back At '87, And A Look Ahead To '88. Also: Bobby Czyz, Julio Cesar Chavez, Tyson-Holmes preview.

April 1988: Thomas Hearns: Why He Will Beat Leonard And Hagler ... And Why He Won't. Also: Mike McCallum, Ramirez-Whitaker preview, Light Heavyweights.

May 1988: Leonard, Hagler, Camacho, Spinks: Have You Seen These Men? Also: Mike Tyson, Donny Lalonde, Wimpy Halstead, Holyfield-Cooper preview.

June 1988: The Tyson-Spinks Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '88. Also: Greg Haugen, McGirt-Warren, Starling-Breland II preview, Camacho-Mancini preview.

July 1988: Tyson's Former Trainer Reveals: "Michael Spinks Will Knock Out Mike Tyson!" Also: Whitaker-Ramirez, Carlos Zarate, Hearns-Barkley preview.

Aug. 1988: Preview Of Superfight '88: Tyson vs. Spinks. Also: Greg Haugen, Julio Cesar Chavez, Roger Mayweather, Starling-Breland, Rating the Superfights.

Sept. 1988: A Revealing Look At Boxing's Best And Worst. Also: Dennis Andries, Calvin Grove, Tate-Nunn preview.

Oct. 1988: No Doubts Remain: Mike Tyson Defeats Spinks For The Undisputed Championship. Also: Thomas Hearns, Davey Moore, Haugen-Rosario preview, Deserving and Undeserving Contenders.

Nov. 1988: Mike Tyson vs. The Heavyweight Greats. Also: Evander Holyfield, John Mugabi, Orlando Canizales, Ramirez-Chavez preview.

Dec. 1988: Leonard vs. Lalonde: Can Sugar Ray Actually Lose? Also: Michael Spinks, Michael Nunn, Julian Jackson, Five Fighters in Peril.

Jan. 1989: The Mike Tyson Quiz. Also: Donald Curry, Tony Lopez, Barkley-Duran preview.

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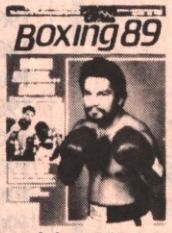

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March 1991: Who Will Survive In 1991? Also: Holyfield-Douglas, Nunn-Curry, Buddy McGirt, Jess Willard, Nelson-Fenech preview.

May 1991: The Heavyweight Division: Alive And Punching. Also: Simon Brown, Marcos Villasana, Year That Was: 1964, Gene Tunney, Chavez-Taylor preview.

July 1991: Terry Norris Defeats A Legend, But Can He Become A Star? Also: Julian Jackson, Camacho-Haugen, Sugar Ray Leonard, Jack Sharkey, McCallum- Nunn preview.

Sept. 1991: It Was No Joke! Rev. George Makes Believers Of Us All. Also: Stumbling Studds (Bowe, Morrison, Moorer, Seldon), Jerry Buss, Reggie Johnson, Max Baer, Brown-Taylor preview.

Nov. 1991: Ruddock Stood Tall, But Holyfield Will Fall: Mike Tyson Still Has What It Takes. Also: Kid Akeem, Boxing Superstitions, Would-be Superstars, Joe Louis, Hearns-Czyz preview.

Jan. 1992: The Holyfield-Tyson Showdown: The 10 Most Critical Questions Of Superfight '91. Also: Riddick Bowe, Great Western Forum Upsets, Thomas Hearns, Jersey Joe Walcott, Brown-McGirt preview.

May 1992: Boxing's Four-Star Future: Toney, Bowe, Norris, and McGirt. Also: Mike McCallum-Toney, Junior Jones, Sonny Liston, Year That Was: 1980, Sonny Liston, Chavez-McGirt preview.

July 1992: Larry "Old Folk" Holmes: A One-Fight Wonder Or A Real Title Threat? Also: Mike Tyson, Vinny Pazienza, Toney-Tiberi, Joe Frazier, McGirt-Taylor II preview.

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Nov. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes: Should We Have Expected Anything More? Also: Joey Gamache, Lamar Parks, Toney & Jackson, The Year That Was: 1968, Hall of Fame weekend, McGirt-Blocker preview.

Jan. 1993: Holyfield vs. Bowe: Finally A Real Challenge For "The Real Deal." Also: Oscar De La Hoya, Michael Carbajal, Senate hearings, The Year That Was: 1941.

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Fighter Of The Year

(Continued from page 60)

videotape that showed him smoking crack in a hotel room.

There is no agenda behind Bowe's actions. He just hasn't adjusted his antenna to pick up the reception of the public. A six-fight deal with HBO may be one certification of superstardom, but another is the adulation of fortysomething truck drivers *and* Catholic school kids, boyz 'n the hood *and* mainstreamerz 'n the Midwest. Call it naivete or a failure to pay attention, but Bowe is slow to notice things like contradictory images or statements that can be easily misinterpreted.

"I would hope me hanging around with a guy like Marion Barry wouldn't turn off a lot of people," Bowe says, "but a friend is a friend until the end. Don't judge me by who I'm with. Judge me by the person I am."

"What you perceive as mixed messages *is* Riddick Bowe," insists Newman. "What you see is what you get."

What you see and get is a kid with plenty of Brooklyn street in him, a kid who says he draws no lines for himself, but who has one eye on a loving mother ready to slap him silly if he crosses the line *she* has drawn. What you see is a genuinely funny guy who can't force a smile at the realization that a bunch of 220-pound beasts, fighters who can guarantee their family's financial security for generations if they batter him into submission, see his face on every heavybag they strike and his body standing on every corner they pass on those five-mile runs at dawn.

So he does things like hang a painting of Joe Louis, the most dignified of heavyweight champions, on his living room wall, then wear a Batman cape into the ring. He talks of the honor and

RING'S FIGHTER OF THE YEAR

Riddick Bowe is the 67th recipient of *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year award, and the 14th different heavyweight winner. A complete listing:

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1937: Henry Armstrong
1938: Joe Louis
1939: Joe Louis
1940: Billy Conn
1941: Joe Louis
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1950: Ezzard Charles
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1953: Bobo Olson
1954: Rocky Marciano
1955: Rocky Marciano
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1957: Carmen Basilio
1958: Ingemar Johansson
1959: Ingemar Johansson
1960: Floyd Patterson
1961: Joe Brown
1962: Dick Tiger
1963: Cassius Clay
1964: Emile Griffith
1965: Dick Tiger
1966: No Award
1967: Joe Frazier
1968: Nino Benvenuti
1969: Jose Napoles
1970: Joe Frazier
1971: Joe Frazier
1972: Muhammad Ali/Carlos Monzon
1973: George Foreman
1974: Muhammad Ali
1975: Muhammad Ali
1976: George Foreman
1977: Carlos Zarate
1978: Muhammad Ali
1979: Ray Leonard
1980: Thomas Hearns
1981: Ray Leonard/Salvador Sanchez
1982: Larry Holmes
1983: Marvin Hagler
1984: Thomas Hearns
1985: Marvin Hagler/Donald Curry
1986: Mike Tyson
1987: Evander Holyfield
1988: Mike Tyson
1989: Pernell Whitaker
1990: Julio Cesar Chavez
1991: James Toney
1992: Riddick Bowe

privilege of breaking Rocky Marciano's record of 49-0, then ducks out of a tournament to which he has already made a commitment. He laughs at Holyfield's choice of old-man opponents, then defends against Michael Dokes. He says he wants "kids to emulate me," then dedicates the Holyfield fight, the biggest moment of his life and career, to Mike Tyson. A rapist sitting in a prison cell.

Image is everything. And like a unification showdown with WBC king Lewis, it, too, will eventually take shape for the WBA-IBF heavyweight champion. But it's anyone's guess just how.

Strange, isn't it? Riddick Bowe, 6'5" and 235 pounds, has finally found something that he'll have to grow into. ■

Morris East

(Continued from page 45)

East and his manager, Hermie Rivera, packed their bags and flew from the Philippines to the United States on November 21. Their search ended at the Maya Motel in Oakland, California.

The pink, two-storied building is a lonely and sad place on Telegraph Avenue, a section of town where hopes and dreams die fast. On this chilly autumn morning, East and Rivera knocked on John East's apartment door. During the fleeting moment that it took his father to turn the knob, Morris shuffled his feet. But as nervous as he was, he wasn't about to run away. He had waited too long and had come too far for this moment.

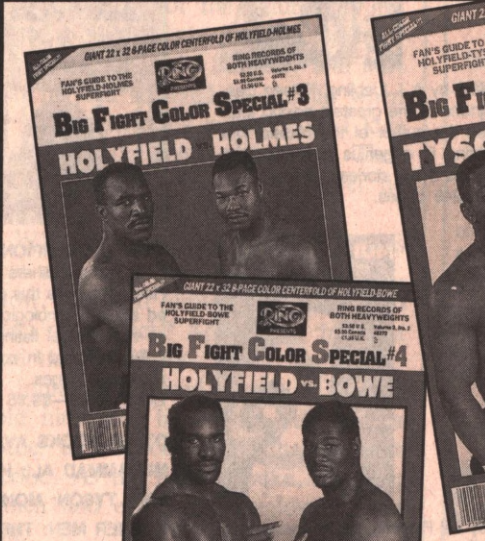
As the door to Room 21 opened, out stepped John East. He walked with a pronounced limp, but a certain handsomeness was not wanting in his face. He was dark and nicely featured, with close-cropped gray hair and a beaming smile. And though he stooped because of a back ailment, he stood 6'3".

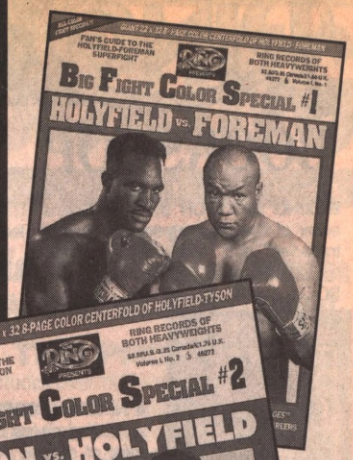
Just then Rivera spoke up. "Mr. John East," he said, "this is your son, Morris."

John East looked incredulous. He knew Morris and Rivera were in town to visit him, but he didn't realize they were going to show up at 11 a.m. Even though he was caught off-guard, he extended a warm welcome. His son couldn't have been happier.

(Continued on page 65)

The RING PRESENTS





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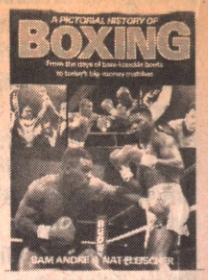

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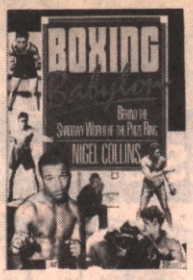

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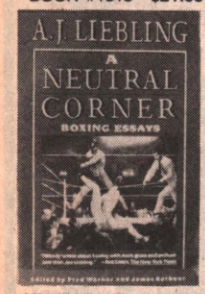

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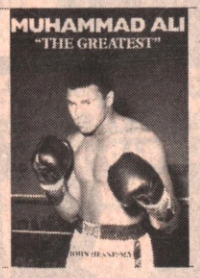

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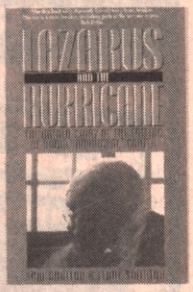

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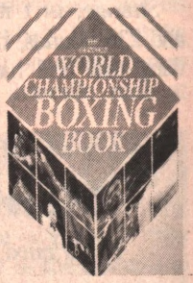

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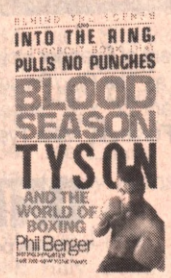

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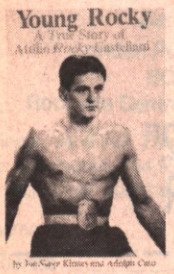

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Morris East

(Continued from page 63)

Once inside, though, Morris' mood changed. He was saddened to see the conditions under which his 48-year-old father was living. His bed was unkempt, there was a stick or two of furniture, a school desk that served as a chair, an old-model color TV set with poor reception, and no telephone.

"You okay?" Rivera said to his fighter in Tagalog, the language spoken in the Philippines. "You look like you're going to cry."

"No, no," Morris replied. "I'll be fine. I mean, I haven't seen this man in my entire life. Why should I cry?"

John East motioned for his son to sit down. For three hours, he tried to explain his actions of so many years ago. At first, he sat morosely silent and stared at his thick hands. He was trying to find the words that would convey his sense of sorrow in his son's native tongue, which he learned during his two tours and seven years of naval duty in the Philippines.

"To begin with," John East finally said, "I am very happy to see you. And I am very happy that you are the champion of the world. Very happy."

He went on to explain that he had been a cook in the U.S. Navy, serving at Subic Bay Naval Base in 1972, the year Morris was born. But in January '73, he received transfer orders to the States and shipped out.

"I was very hurt," he told his son. "But I wrote letters and talked long distance to the family."

Not for long, though. East stopped communicating after two years, and the long silence set in.

Morris then asked the obvious question: Why had his father left?

"Son," the father replied, "let's forget the past."

He paused for a moment, then added, "I never had a good job. Never had anything where I could come back. But I will try for the remainder of my lifetime to take care of my family like I should."

East did not press the matter. Perhaps someday he will find out if there is more to the story.

He told John East about his difficulties growing up without a father. At the age of two, he said, his mother gave him away to a childless aunt, who raised him on the island of Cebu, 270 miles southeast of Olongapo.

To earn money during his teenage years, East had a variety of odd jobs. He worked in a vulcanizing plant, was employed as a houseboy, and sold *baluts* at the local arena in Cebu. (A balut is a duck egg that contains a two-day-old duckling. It is boiled and served, along with a chaser of beer. Filipinos consider it a delicacy.)

East's telling of the balut story released a sudden jab of red-hot memories. He recalled the indignity and hurt that he had suffered as a child when he was taunted by neighborhood kids because of the color of his skin. They shouted, "Hey, Negro," whenever he walked past them.

What confused him at the time was that no one in his family was black. How, he asked himself, had a Filipino been born black? Apparently, his aunt had never told him about his father.

John East listened intently as his son told him how he wished he'd had a father to lean on during that difficult period. As the fighter spoke, his face, which had earlier been aglow, turned sad.

John East was touched. He covered his head with his hands as unwanted moisture dripped from his eyes.

"I ask for your forgiveness," he said.

The sight and sound of his emotional father, who is now disabled and living on Social Security, moved the fighter to tears, too.

Later, East was asked if he still bore a grudge against his father.

"There was a time when I was filled with bitterness," he said. "But all that was wiped away when I saw my father's physical state and his living conditions. How could I not feel bad for this man? So instead of being hurt and bitter, I decided to forgive him for his mistake."

Two days later, Rivera invited father and son to his home in Newark, California, to celebrate Thanksgiving. The Easts spent the better part of the afternoon eating turkey and watching videotapes of Morris' fights.

John East wanted to know more about his son's title victory. Morris, a southpaw, was battered and behind on points going into the 11th round, but he was able to stick a left hand inside Hiranaka's defense and connect with the champion's chin. Down went the Japanese, stunning the crowd at Budoken Hall in Tokyo.

(Continued on page 66)

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Morris East

(Continued from page 65)

"I'm a late starter," joked East, 16-2 (11).

Hiranaka got to his feet and stumbled around the ring. When referee Carlos Berrocal realized that he was in no condition to continue, he stopped the fight. The first of East's three dreams had come true. Meeting his father was the second. Number three is a unification bout with his idol, WBC super lightweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez.

To that end, Rivera met in December with Chavez' promoter, Don King, in Las Vegas. Negotiations began for a promotional contract, and perhaps a future Chavez-East title fight. Rivera acknowledged that to secure such a matchup, he might advise East to abdicate the WBA crown; the governing body has mandated a defense against its number-one challenger, Juan Coggi, for a $120,000 payday that Rivera deems unsatisfactory, especially since the bout would take place in Argentina.

"I don't relish that fight," said Rivera, who wants a much bigger purse. It's more than likely, however, that he'll pursue Chavez. East views a bout with the mighty Mexican as a once-in-a-lifetime chance to face the world's best fighter—and make his biggest payday.

"I have great respect for Chavez' ability," he said. "But a man has only two hands, and I know I can beat him."

While challenging Chavez would be a magnificent opportunity, East is having a terrific time living out his current dream: getting to know his father. When he isn't training, they're spending time together, trying to catch up on 20 years.

It'll take some time, but Morris East knows all about waiting. ■

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Louis-Lewis

(Continued from page 47)

couldn't find an empty seat, so he stood in the rear of the arena with the fight managers and Garden employees who are issued free tickets but no seats. Mushky Jackson, who worked for promoter Mike Jacobs, recognized the elder Lewis and patted him gently on the shoulder. "Don't worry, Pop," consoled Mushky. "Remember, they both have the same equipment—a couple of arms, a couple of legs, and a chin to level at. It's even all the way around." It was a nice gesture on Jackson's part and the old man smiled thankfully, even though he was pointedly aware of the frightful danger his son was facing at that very moment.

A few seconds after the opening bell, Mr. Lewis gulped hard and mumbled a prayer. When the fighters moved to within hitting range of each other, the old man wrung his hands so hard that the pinkish color in his fingernails turned a chalky white.

Now Joe Louis began to tee off. "Oh, dear God," the old man shrieked. A few people turned around to look, but none understood the circumstances. Again and again his high-pitched voice shrieked out the same mournful words: "Oh, dear God."

He wet his lips and dragged a soiled handkerchief across his sweating brow. Louis was hitting hard now, with all the deadly recoil in his strapping body, and John Henry was falling to the floor and struggling back up again.

"The bum has guts," yelled a fellow upstairs. "Ya gotta give him credit for that."

A few people laughed. Somebody else yelled for referee Donovan to stop the fight, while still another demanded, "Let the bum take his lumps. We're paying him pretty good."

The elder Lewis must of heard those biting remarks, but he wasn't paying attention. He continued to stare dumbly at the up-and-down figure of his famous son, out there under those scorching lights. The old man watched helplessly as the punches landed with power and precision.

Louis snapped John Henry's head back with a left jab and followed quickly with a left to the body and a smashing right to the chin. Down went John Henry for the third time in that fatal first round. Donovan glanced into his glazed eyes and waved Joe away. The fight was over.

Back in the shadows, the father bowed his head and clasped his hands together. Then he looked up—they were dragging his son to his corner. Instinctively, the old man pushed toward the scene. But he could hardly walk. A stranger noticed his plight as he staggered against a chair.

"Are you okay?" Mr. Lewis was asked.

He smiled and politely nodded his head. "Yes, I'm all right, but look at my boy up there."

Finally, the old man managed to get down close to the ring, but he was too late—his son had already left from the opposite side, and he was by now back in his dressing room.

"Where will I find John Henry Lewis?" he asked a burly guard.

"Down this aisle and out into the corridor. It's the second door to the left. But you can't get in. Nobody can, except those who have official business."

The old man followed the directions, and now he was standing before his son's dressing room. But another guard blocked the way.

"What can I do for you, Pop?"

"I'm John Henry's father and I'd like to see my son."

Obviously surprised, the guard eyed the worried man.

"Too bad what happened out front," he said. "Your boy has a lot of hard guts."

"Yes, he has. He fought the best he knew how."

The guard opened the door, and Mr. Lewis slowly walked inside. The fulsome odor of liniment and arnica tugged at his nostrils as he scanned the morgue-like room. Then he saw his son, who was laying stretched out on the rubbing table with his chest pumping up and down like a man sucking in his last breaths. He walked over to the table.

"Are you all right, son?"

The beaten fighter tossed his head from side to side. He looked into his

father's tiny eyes. "Thanks for coming in, Dad. I'm sorry I let you down."

John Henry looked like a fugitive from an oxygen tent, an ugly welt under his left eye, his lip gashed, and resin staining his satin trunks. He turned from his father and glared at his manager, Gus Greenlee, who was slumped warily on a stool.

"Why did he stop the fight?" Lewis asked angrily. "I could have gone on. I wasn't hurt. I didn't take a count because I wasn't hurt. I was just beginning to get warmed up."

"You mean you were getting cooled off," Greenlee said casually. "You were down three times. If Louis didn't convince you, he convinced me."

Lewis seemed dazed and confused. "Was I that bad?" he asked his father.

"No, son, you weren't bad. You were as brave as any man could be. This was The Lord's way. It wasn't your fault. I'm proud of you." The old man looked at the disgusted Greenlee and said, "And Mr. Greenlee should feel the same way."

Meanwhile, down the corridor in a much larger dressing room, King Louis I was holding court. The place was alive with reporters, cameramen, and friends from Detroit.

"We're still friends," the champion drawled, "John Henry is a nice boy, a credit to our people."

"Did the fight go as you expected?" asked Murray Lewin of *The Mirror.*

"It came out just as I expected. Only I figured he would hang around a little longer."

"Who's your next opponent?"

Joe was taking off his trunks.

"Galento, Baer, Nova—whoever my managers say. What's the difference?"

Louis pulled on his bathrobe and excused himself. He walked out into the corridor and down to John Henry's dressing room. The guard stepped quickly out of the way and flipped open the door. The champion went directly over to Lewis, who seemed surprised.

"All right, John Henry?" Louis asked.

"Just fine, Joe. I didn't believe the things they said about you before tonight. Now I can add a few remarks of my own."

Joe Louis grinned modestly.

"This is my dad. Come in all the way from Phoenix to see me get knocked out," John said as Joe shook the old man's hand.

The elder Lewis stared at the champion as if he were Abe Lincoln. Then he spoke: "You are a great man, Joe. I'm honored to shake your hand."

Louis blushed. "I'm sorry what happened to John, but we both made some money, and after all, that's what counts in the long run."

"No," the old man broke in. "Money isn't what counts in the long run, as you will learn when you are as old as I am. Human dignity and mutual respect for your fellow man is what counts in the long run. Remember that, both of you, victor and vanquished."

And both men did remember—the record proves it. ■

Uppercuts

(Continued from page 25)

ing Uzcudun's defense with uppercuts. It worked. In the fourth round, Louis knocked the Spaniard off his feet for the first time in his career with an uppercut and registered a knockout victory.

Three-division titlist Henry Armstrong is generally rated a notch or two above lightweight champion Lou Ambers. Still, Ambers was able to win one of their two encounters due in a large part to his excellent use of the uppercut. Armstrong had a come-forward, perpetual motion style. To counteract this, "The Herkimer Hurricane" met Armstrong's rush with well-placed uppercuts, which took their toll as the rounds wore down. Armstrong's battered face was testimony to effective use of the uppercut.

The uppercut isn't generally considered a trademark punch, as are most other types of blows. The left hook is associated with such men as Al Davis, Charley White, and Joe Frazier, and the right cross with Max Schmeling and Thomas Hearns. If any fighter can be associated with the uppercut, however, three-time former light heavyweight champion Marvin Johnson would be the man.

"The left uppercut was one of my favorite punches because it's not seen that easily," the southpaw said. "Fighters are looking for straight punches."

Johnson recalled a major bout in which the uppercut was a deciding punch. Unfortuntately, he was the punchee, and not the puncher, in his fourth-round knockout loss to Michael Spinks.

(Continued on page 70)

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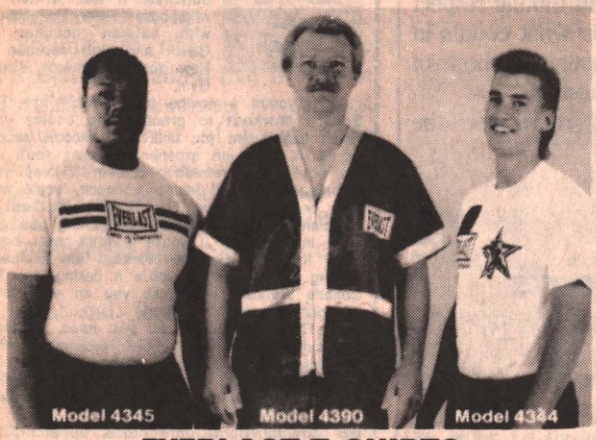

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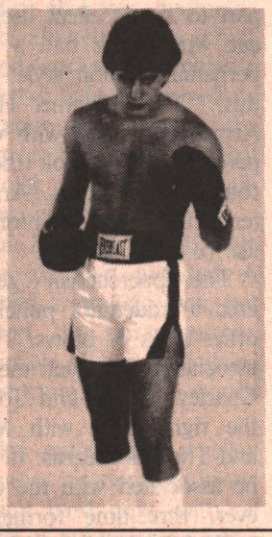


CORNER CUSHIONS

Full corner protection. Made of "Nevatear" vinyl coated nylon with "Dura-Foam" filler. (SET: 1/Red, 2/White, 1/Blue)

6654 Corner Cushions (Set) **$93.50**
6654 Corner Cushions (Each) **$25.50**

PROTECTION CUPS

TOP PROFESSIONAL

Model 4461 **Model 4460**

★ The finest top grain genuine horsehide leather is utilized for the covering.
★ Lined with selected soft genuine suede leather.
★ Unbreakable super-lightweight "Everlite" cup.
★ Super shock absorbing "Ensolite" closed-cell foam padding.
★ Includes 4" wide heavy-duty elastic laced closure for snug comfortable fit. (Model 4461 includes oversized waist for an extra measure of hip and kidney protection.)

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large

4461 Top Professional Protection Cup **$106.25**
4460 Professional Protection Cup **$85.00**

OLYMPIC & AMATEUR

Model 4462 **Model 4462**

★ Unbreakale lightweight "Everlite" cup.
★ Super shock absorbing "Ensolite" closed-cell foam padding.
★ Triple coated with rugged PVC liquid vinyl and baked to a smooth unblemished finish.
★ Includes 4" wide heavy-duty elastic laced closure for snug comfortable fit.

Sizes: Small, Medium, Large

4462 Olympic Protection Cup **$54.40**

EVERLAST® U.S.A.

Choice of Champions®

MEDICINE BALLS

Genuine cowhide leather. All seams are inverted and lock-stitched for durability.

6502 (9 lb.) $61.20
6503 (11 lb.) $71.40
6504 (15 lb.) $79.90

MOUTH GUARDS

Made of the finest para rubber. It's soft, pliant and stays white. Odorless, tasteless & hygenic.

4401 (single) $2.15
4404 (double) $2.55

SKIP ROPES

Leather, ball bearing ropes.

4496 (8') 10.20
4497 (9½') $11.05
4499 (9½') (Extra Thick) $13.60

HAND WRAPS

100% cotton herringbone woven.

4450 Hand Wraps $4.65/pair

BAG GLOVES

TOP PRO BAG GLOVES

- ★ Genuine horsehide
- ★ Genuine leather binding
- ★ Padded with shock absorbing Enso Foam

4305 (L) $56.10/pair
4305 (XL) $59.50/pair

WORKOUT BAG GLOVES

- ★ Top grain cowhide
- ★ Thick full length dense padding
- ★ Padded palm grip

4306 (L) $27.00/pair
43066 (XL) $28.90/pair

TRAINING GLOVES

TOP PRO TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Finest quality soft genuine horsehide.
- ★ Fully leather bound and reinforced leather finger pocket.

2412 (12 oz.) $136.00/pair
2414 (14 oz.) $141.10/pair
2416 (16 oz.) $146.20/pair
24166 (16 oz. XL) $149.60/pair

MILITARY TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Top grain leather
- ★ Individually padded with a special combination of blended long staple filler and foam.

2512 (12 oz.) $44.20/pair
2514 (14 oz.) $46.75/pair
2516 (16 oz.) $49.30/pair

WORKOUT TRAINING GLOVES

- ★ Genuine top-grain leather
- ★ Fully lined and bound

2712 (12 oz.) $28.90/pair
2714 (14 oz.) $30.60/pair
2716 (16 oz.) $32.30/pair

1 LB. HAND WEIGHTS

(FOR SHADOW BOXING)

$2.50/pair

LEATHER SPEED BAGS

Astro Speed Kidskin Bag (8"x5")
4204 ..... $54.40

Sonic Speed Bag (9"x6")
4200 ..... $56.10

Jet Speed Bag (10"x7")
4201 ..... $59.50

Super Speed Bag (11"x8")
4202 ..... $62.90

Military Speed Bag (11"x8")
4213 ..... $49.30

Genuine Leather Speed Bag
4210 (11"x8") $37.40

DOUBLE END BAG

Leather welted and nylon lined.

Model 4220 $68.00

NEOPRENE SHORTS

$31.50

Order by waist size. Color: Beige

S (23-27"); M (27-32"); L (32-38"); XL (38-45")

EQUIPMENT BAGS

EVL 251 (18x9") Blue $11.95
EVL 252 (24x12") Black $15.50

EVL 555 (19x9x9") $16.50
Black Rayon Canvas

EVL 585 (18x10x10") $22.00
Blue with Green Neon Nylon Oxford

EVL 540 (42x16") $27.50

Triple Color Bag ... Black, Red and Blue.

STRIKING BAG BLADDERS

4230 for 4200, 4204 ..... $5.10
4232 for 4201, 4202, 4210, 4213 ..... $5.10
4234 for 4220 ..... $5.10

EVERLAST BOXING SHOES

The shoe's "upper" is 10" high and made of a combination of the finest top-grain cowhide and superior stretch nylon mesh. Available in half szes from 6 to 14.

4430 (White or Black) ... $68.00

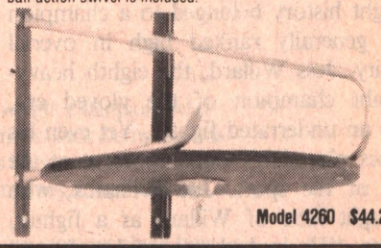
PUNCH MITTS

- ★ Made of finest top grain cowhide.
- ★ Extra thick, shock absorbing Dur-o-Lite padding.

4315
Punch Mitts
$21.25 each

STANDARD 24" ADJUSTABLE PLATFORM

Specially designed for residential installation. Full-sized solid wood drum. Smoothly finished for fast accurate rebounds. All steel construction with simplified 6¾" height adjustment. Wall brackets are 16" on center to fasten to wall studs. Fast ball-action swivel is included.



Model 4260 $44.20

STRIKING BAG SWIVELS

TOP PRO BALL BEARING SWIVEL

Precision ball bearing construction insures super speed, smooth action and accurate rebounds. Shur-Lok device to hold striking bag. Heavy duty flange mounts securely to platform. 4444 $22.10

PROFESSIONAL SWIVEL

Swivel ball is oil impregnated and precision machined for super-fast ball-bearing action. Heavy-duty flange mounts securely to the platform.

4440 $15.30

SWIVEL WITH 2 S-HOOKS

4685 $3.40

STEEL BEAM Attachment

4681 $17.00

WOOD BEAM Attachment or Floorplate

For D.E. Heavy Bag
4680 $12.75

4688 $8.50 CHAIN & SWIVEL Assembly with 6 S-Hooks

HEAVY DUTY COMPRESSION SPRING

Tested with weights over 300 pounds. For maximum effectiveness, use with our joist bracket.

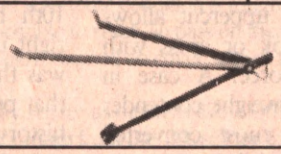
$7.95 Guaranteed

HEAVY DUTY BEAM BRACKET

Fits all std. 2" ceiling joists. Fastens with 1½" lag screws. Built-in swivel ring.

$7.95 Guaranteed

WALL MOUNTED HEAVY BAG HOLDER



4682
$51.00

BOOKS

BOXING STEP BY STEP — Cerrone	$ 7.95
BOXING BASICS — Bodak	$ 7.95
PICTORAL HISTORY OF BOXING — Andre & Fleischer (SC)	$14.95
CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHTING — DEMPSY	$ 8.95
CHAMPION, JOE LOUIS, BLACK HERO IN WHITE AMERICA - Mead	$ 6.95
THE JEWISH BOXERS HALL OF FAME — Blady	$14.95
THE BIG PUNCHERS — Reg Gutteridge	$17.95
BOXING BABYLON — BEHIND THE SHADOWY WORLD OF THE PRIZE RING — Nigel Collins	$18.95

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Uppercuts

(Continued from page 67)

"The uppercut made the difference in that fight," he said. "I think I would've won if not for that punch. That uppercut was an example of what an uppercut can do."

One of the best uppercuts in heavyweight history belonged to a champion not generally ranked high in overall ability. Jess Willard, the eighth heavyweight champion of the gloved era, was an underrated fighter. Yet even his critics placed his right uppercut at the top of the sport. Joe Williams, who thought little of Willard as a fighter, wrote, "He looked awkward and amateurish leading with any other punch, but few of the masters handled the uppercut with greater effect." Indeed, one Willard opponent, Bull Young, died as a result of a powerful uppercut delivered in their August 1913 match.

When Willard met Jack Dempsey on July 4, 1919, the "Pottawatomie Giant" suffered a brutal defeat, falling seven times in the first round and retiring after the third. Significantly, the sole telling blow landed by Willard was a powerful right uppercut in the second round that rocked Dempsey down to his toes.

Willard's uppercut was enhanced by his height of almost 6'6", which enabled him to put tremendous leverage into the punch against foes standing only 6' or 6'1". In fact, when thrown correctly, incorporating the entire body from the leg up, the uppercut allows boxers who can't hook or cross with power to hit with force. A case in point is former heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney. Like most converted southpaws, Cooney had little power in his right hand. Yet he had a fairly powerful right uppercut.

Other boxers put their unique styles into the uppercut. The great Sugar Ray Robinson, the consummate master of balance, threw double uppercuts, right, left, right, left, and with his feet positioned in textbook fashion, achieved deadly power in each blow.

If Robinson were a ballet dancer, Rocky Marciano was a square dancer. While Marciano didn't throw classic double-uppercuts, "The Brockton Blockbuster" put tremendous leverage into the blow, and his uppercut is regarded as one of the most destructive in history.

The most bizarre example of a personal style affecting the uppercut is the case of 1950s heavyweight contender Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson. A wild-swinging, perpetual motion machine of a boxer, Jackson featured a double-uppercut of his own strange variety. This wasn't the perfect right-left combination of Robinson's. Rather, it was two clumsily executed uppercuts thrown in a row from the same hand!

Given the uppercut's history, it should come as no surprise that the punch has played a crucial role in very different ways in several heavyweight title bouts.

In June 1933, heavyweight champion Jack Sharkey defended against Italian challenger Primo Carnera. Despite his impressive knockout record, Carnera had no punch, and it was accepted as an unspoken fact in fight circles that most of his victories had come courtesy of his gangster managers.

In the sixth round, Carnera landed a right uppercut and Sharkey fell down face-forward. Ringsiders commented it was the first time they had seen a man fall forward from a punch whose force is designed to send one backward.

In both victory and defeat, the uppercut has played a prominent role in the career of former champion Buster Douglas. In his title-winning effort against Mike Tyson in February 1990, Douglas was dropped by a right uppercut. This was the punch that would serve as the starting point for Don King's infamous attempt to save Tyson's title because of an alleged long count. Soon after rising from the canvas, Douglas again took control. In the 10th round, he delivered a powerful right uppercut that staggered Tyson. It was the start of the sequence of blows that produced the greatest upset in ring history.

In his first defense of the title, Douglas again sought to use the uppercut. Unfortunately, he did so in a manner only the most rank novice could be excused for. The uppercut is an inside punch; throwing the blow from long range is as impractical as attempting a right cross from a clinch. Yet in his showdown vs. Evander Holyfield, Douglas fired a right uppercut from long range, leaving himself open for a counter right. Holyfield didn't miss, and Douglas' first defense was his last.

Holyfield's manager, Lou Duva, said of the bout, "We studied the tapes of Douglas, and saw he threw a right, feigned, then threw the right uppercut. We told Evander to counter with a right. He did, and it ended the fight." ■

Alan Shelton is a freelance writer based in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

"I never forget a loss," he says. "There's no feeling like losing. The second guy who beat me, he beat me three times straight. We fought a total of 10 times, and I won the next seven.

"I remembered."

Taliaferro also remembers his only professional loss, a disputed decision to hot-and-cold journeyman Mark Smith. He hasn't yet been able to lure Smith into a rematch.

Despite his youth, Taliaferro thinks his experience with hardened pros, dating back to days before he was old enough to drive, has paid off.

"I was sparring pros the last two years I was an amateur," he says. "I had adopted a pro style. Veteran fighters start slow and finish quick. I used to start fast and coast the last few rounds, but now I get stronger in the later rounds. I haven't had that many fights, but I'm a veteran in my own right."

Says Surrett, "He's just a natural at it. He does things you can't teach a kid. He has perfect range and perfect balance."

Taliaferro hopes to work his way into world title contention over the first six months of 1993 and earn a title shot by the end of the year. If he is successful, all of Alabama will celebrate. Joe Louis, Evander Holyfield, and Tracy Patterson all hail from Alabama, but it was only after they left the state that they gained acclaim.

"Being from Alabama, a lot of people underestimate me," he says. "That just wants to make me prove them wrong. The only thing fighters from Alabama never had was the big promoters behind them. Down here you have the hungry fighters who have never seen the limelight. That's why they're hard. Larry Holmes made Pennsylvania big—I want to make Alabama big."

It's a safe bet his mother won't stand in the way. ■

Tommy Deas is a sportswriter for The Tuscaloosa (Alabama) News.

Boxing Collector's Notebook

By Don Scott

When *The Ring* first opened its doors, the only former heavyweight champions who were not still living were John L. Sullivan and Bob Fitzsimmons. Jack Dempsey was champion, and would be for four more years. *The Ring* has been alive and well since 1922. It is no wonder that it is the most collected of all boxing magazines, and one of the most religiously collected magazines in the country.

Since I have been doing this column, the most mail I get are inquiries about how one goes about finding past issues of *The Ring*, about how to sell *Rings* currently owned, or, just, "What are they worth?"

Where to buy and sell *The Ring*: There are several collector publications, including my own, that feature ads buying and selling back issues, and there are sport card shows and antique shows in most metropolitan areas. (Issues from the '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s can be purchased directly through *The Ring.)* Do not assume that magazines bought at flea markets and antique shows will be good buys. Back issues of *The Ring* are still pretty affordable collectibles. Be patient and know what they are worth.

What to pay when you buy: When you talk price, remember that buying *Rings* individually will cost more than whole collections. Also, condition is very important. The prices listed below are for individual magazines with intact covers, no noticeable creases, and no writing on them. For magazines where there is a moderate amount of defects, expect about 60 percent of these prices, and where the condition is rough, about 20 percent. *Rings* without covers are almost impossible to resell, so pass on them (except for issues from the '20s). The ranges listed below depend on cover subject and date.

The first copy of *The Ring* (February 1922) may sell for as much as $750. Other '20s *Rings* sell for $25 (from 1929) to $150 (from 1922). *Rings* from the '30s sell for $15-25 each; '40s sell for $10-15; '50s sell for $10-12; '60s sell for $10-12. Volumes that have been bound by *The Ring* may add about $30-50 to the individual copy price; bound by libraries or others, somewhat less.

More advice: You can collect issues of *The Ring* as a long-term investment or for the sheer enjoyment of owning a true part of boxing history and the hours of pleasure they bring. It is still The Bible of Boxing.

How to sell: First, understand that magazine dealers have to maintain large inventories and are constantly trying to fill individual requests. They cannot afford to pay more than 30-40 percent of the above prices—if they are interested at all. Most haunt flea markets for their stock and hope to buy in large quantities. The only way to realize even close to the above prices is to have patience. Connect with collectors or sell your collection in a hobby publication.

Thanks to our premier boxing dealer, Jerome Shochet, for his assistance with this article. ■

Don Scott is editor and publisher of Boxing Collectors' News. He can be reached through The Ring.

Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of November

WBA as of October

IBF as of December

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	3
Riddick Bowe (USA)	2	1	C
Lennox Lewis (GB)	1	2	2
Tony Tucker (USA)	3	4	10
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	4	7	8
George Foreman (USA)	5	3	1
Alex Stewart (JAM)	6	5	11
Alex Garcia (USA)	7	6	7
Tommy Morrison (USA)	8	10	6
Ray Mercer (USA)	9	8	5
Frank Bruno (GB)	10	9	4
Francois Botha (SA)	-	-	9

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	-	-	C
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	1	1
Akim Tafer (FRA)	2	2	7
Nate Miller (USA)	3	10	3
Marcelo Figueroa (ARG)	4	3	5
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	5	-	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	6	-	-
Arthur Williams (USA)	7	4	6
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	9	-	-
Norbert Ekassi (CAM)	10	7	8
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	-	5	-
James Warring (USA)	13	6	4
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	8	-
Uriah Grant (USA)	14	9	2
Derek Angol (GB)	12	-	9
Jason Waller (USA)	24	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
David Vedder (USA)	1	-	-
Frank Tate (USA)	2	3	4
Randall Yonker (USA)	3	8	-
Henry Maske (GER)	4	1	5
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	7	-
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	6	-	-
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	7	-	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	8	-	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	9	6	-
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	10	-	-
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	14	2	9
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	4	-
Saul Montana (MEX)	18	5	2
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	11	9	8
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	10	1
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	-	-	3
Andrea Maggi (ITA)	-	-	6
Robert Folley (USA)	-	-	7
Adolpho Washington (USA)	-	12	10

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Nigel Benn (GB)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	C	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Henry Wharton (GB)	1	11	6
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	2	2	3
Tim Littles (USA)	3	4	2
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	4	5	1
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	5	-	-
Fidel Castro Smith (GB)	6	8	-
Frank Liles (USA)	7	7	7
Tony Thornton (USA)	8	-	4
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	9	6	-
Nicky Piper (GB)	10	-	-
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	1	10
Merqui Sosa (DR)	18	3	12
James Cook (GB)	13	9	-
Mauricio Amaral (BRA)	26	10	-
Jean Tsidjo (FRA)	16	-	5
Doug DeWitt (USA)	15	-	8
Steve Little (USA)	17	12	9

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (VI)	C	-	-
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	C	-
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	1	4
Roy Jones (USA)	2	2	2
Lamar Parks (USA)	3	4	5
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	4	6	1
Mike McCallum (JAM)	5	7	3
Jorge Castro (ARG)	6	9	-
Thomas Tate (USA)	7	-	-
Steve Collins (USA)	8	3	-
Frederic Seillier (FRA)	9	-	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	10	10	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	15	5	10
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	12	8	-
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	6
Brett Lally (USA)	16	-	7
Frank Grant (GB)	13	-	8
Wayne Powell (USA)	-	-	9

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Simon Brown (USA)	1	4	-
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	2	7	6
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	-	8
Carl Daniels (USA)	4	10	3
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	5	5	-
William Jones (USA)	6	-	-
Wayne Powell (USA)	7	-	-
Vincent Pettway (USA)	8	11	2
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	9	-	-
Jorge Vaca (MEX)	10	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	-	1	7
Aaron Davis (USA)	-	2	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	3	4
Hitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	11	6	12
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	-	8	1
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	9	-
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	-	-	5
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	19	-	9
Andy Till (GB)	16	-	10

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	-	C	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	-
Santos Cardona (PR)	2	-	-
Yori Boy Campas (MEX)	3	3	2
Vernon Phillips (USA)	4	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	5	1	-
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	6	8	11
Felix Trinidad (PR)	7	-	7
Glenwood Brown (USA)	8	-	-
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	9	2	9
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	10	6	6
Luis Garcia (VEN)	12	5	1
Buck Smith (USA)	11	7	10
Anthony Jones (USA)	22	9	-
Moises Rivera (PR)	-	10	-
Kevin Pompey (USA)	21	12	3
Stephan Johnson (USA)	17	-	4
Larry Barnes (USA)	27	-	5
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	-	-	8

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Morris East (PHIL)	-	C	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	-	C
Terrence Alli (USA)	1	2	1
Greg Haugen (USA)	2	-	-
Hector Camacho (PR)	3	5	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	4	11	8

Charles Murray (USA)	5	-	2
Frankie Randall (USA)	6	-	-
Hector Lopez (USA)	7	10	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	8	-	5
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	9	4	11
Vince Phillips (USA)	10	12	3
Juan Coggi (ARG)	-	1	7
Edwin Rosario (PR)	18	3	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	15	6	-
Ramon Zavala (VEN)	29	7	9
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	-	8	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	16	9	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	13	-	4
Rodney Moore (USA)	12	-	6
William Ruiz (COL)	-	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	C	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	3	6
Rafael Ruelas (USA)	2	9	4
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	4	7
Dingaan Thobela (SA)	4	1	9
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	5	-	-
Jean Mendy (FRA)	6	7	8
David Sample (USA)	7	-	-
Leavander Johnson (USA)	8	-	-
Joey Gamache (USA)	9	6	12
Chad Broussard (USA)	10	11	-
Gussie Nazarov (CIS)	14	2	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	5	10
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	-	8	-
Julio P. Ruiz (PAN)	-	10	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	-	-	1
Tracy Spann (USA)	-	-	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	26	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	12	-	5

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	2	2
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	-	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	3	-	1
Calvin Grove (USA)	4	3	10
Regilio Tuur (HOLL)	5	-	9
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	6	7	8
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	7	11	-
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	8	-	-
Jacobin Yoma (FRA)	9	10	-
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	10	-	11
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	-	1	-
Harold Warren (USA)	-	4	-
Jesus Gutierrez (PAN)	-	5	-
Marcos Guevara (VEN)	25	6	-
Narciso Valenzuela (MEX)	-	8	7
John Brown (USA)	-	9	-
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	3
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	-	-	4
Eugene Speed (USA)	11	-	5
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	6

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	2
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	-	-
Ever Beleno (COL)	3	3	5
James Leija (USA)	4	8	4
Tom Johnson (USA)	5	2	1
Jose Ramos (DR)	6	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	7	5	-
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	8	-	-
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	9	-	9
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	10	-	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	4	-

Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	14	6	10
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	7	3
Giovanni Nieves (VEN)	-	9	-
Seiji Asakawa (JAP)	-	10	-
Tony Green (USA)	11	-	6
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	7
Maurizio Stecca (ITA)	17	-	8

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Tracy Patterson (USA)	C	-	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	C	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	-	1	C
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	1	-	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	2	7	1
Julio Gervacio (DR)	3	-	4
Rudy Zavala (USA)	4	-	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	5	3	8
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	6	2	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	7	-	-
Otilio Gallegos (MEX)	8	-	-
Cesar Soto (MEX)	9	-	6
Raul Perez (MEX)	10	-	10
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	18	4	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	13	5	-
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	-	6	-
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	-	8	-
Arnullo Romero (PAN)	-	9	-
Juan Rodriguez (COL)	-	10	-
Richard Duran (USA)	22	12	2
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	3
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	-	5
Cesar Polanco (DR)	24	-	7
Nurhuda (INDO)	27	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	C	-	-
Eliecer Julio (COL)	-	C	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Junior Jones (USA)	1	1	1
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	-	-
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	-	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	-	10
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	5	6	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	6	2	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	7	3	8
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	8	-	-
Yasuei Yakushiji (JAP)	9	4	-
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	10	-	12
Israel Contreras (VEN)	-	5	-
Abraham Torres (VEN)	-	7	6
Nana Konadu (GHA)	-	8	-
Clarence Adams (USA)	-	9	2
Harold Mestre (COL)	27	10	5
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	3
Ricardo Vargas (MEX)	19	12	4
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	7
Luis Rolon (PR)	-	-	9

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	C	-
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Joel Luna (MEX)	1	5	1
Greg Richardson (USA)	2	-	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	3	2	-
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	4	-	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	5	-	5
Armando Salazar (MEX)	6	-	-
Josefino Suarez (MEX)	7	6	2
Carlos Mercado (COL)	8	11	3
Nana Konadu (GHA)	9	-	-
Jung Il Byun (KOR)	10	7	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	-	1	6
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	23	3	12
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	18	4	-
David Marchan (VEN))	-	8	-
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	24	9	8
Ernie Cataluna (PHIL)	-	10	-

Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	-	-	7
Julio Borboa (MEX)	-	-	9
Ole Kiatwonway (THAI)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Yuri Arbachakov (CIS)	C	-	-
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	C	-
Phichit Sithbangprachan (THAI)	-	-	C
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	1
Al Kotey (GHA)	2	4	11
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	3	-	-
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	4	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	5	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	6	6	-
Hugo Soto (ARG)	7	-	-
Seung Koo Lee (KOR)	8	11	-
Scotty Olson (CAN)	9	2	2
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	10	3	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	1	-
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	26	5	9
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	-	7	-
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	-	8	-
Salvatore Fanni (ITA)	17	9	7
Hisashi Tokushima (JAP)	19	10	-
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	-	-	3
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	-	4
Dave McAuley (IRE)	13	-	5
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	6
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	8
Little Guns Pumar (PHIL)	24	-	10

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	7	6
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	-	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	-	9
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	4	5	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	5	-	4
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	8	-
Shiro Yahiro (Japan)	7	4	8
Domingo Sosa (DR)	8	-	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	9	9	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	10	2	2
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	1	12
Leo Gamez (VEN)	19	3	-
Robinson Cuesta (PAN)	-	6	1
Yong Jin Kim (KOR)	-	10	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	3
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	5
Jesus Zuniga (COL)	-	-	7
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	20	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	-	C	-
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	C
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	1	5	1
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	2	2	2
Rafael Torres (DR)	3	4	5
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	4	8	-
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	5	3	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	6	12	-
Kermin Guardia (COL)	7	10	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	8	6	12
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	9	9	-
Aswin Sithlukmuang (THAI)	10	11	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	-	1	-
Phalan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	13	7	-
Ratanapol Vorapin (THAI)	-	-	3
Toto Pongswang (THAI)	-	-	4
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	6
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	-	-	7
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	19	-	8
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	17	-	9
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	21	-	10

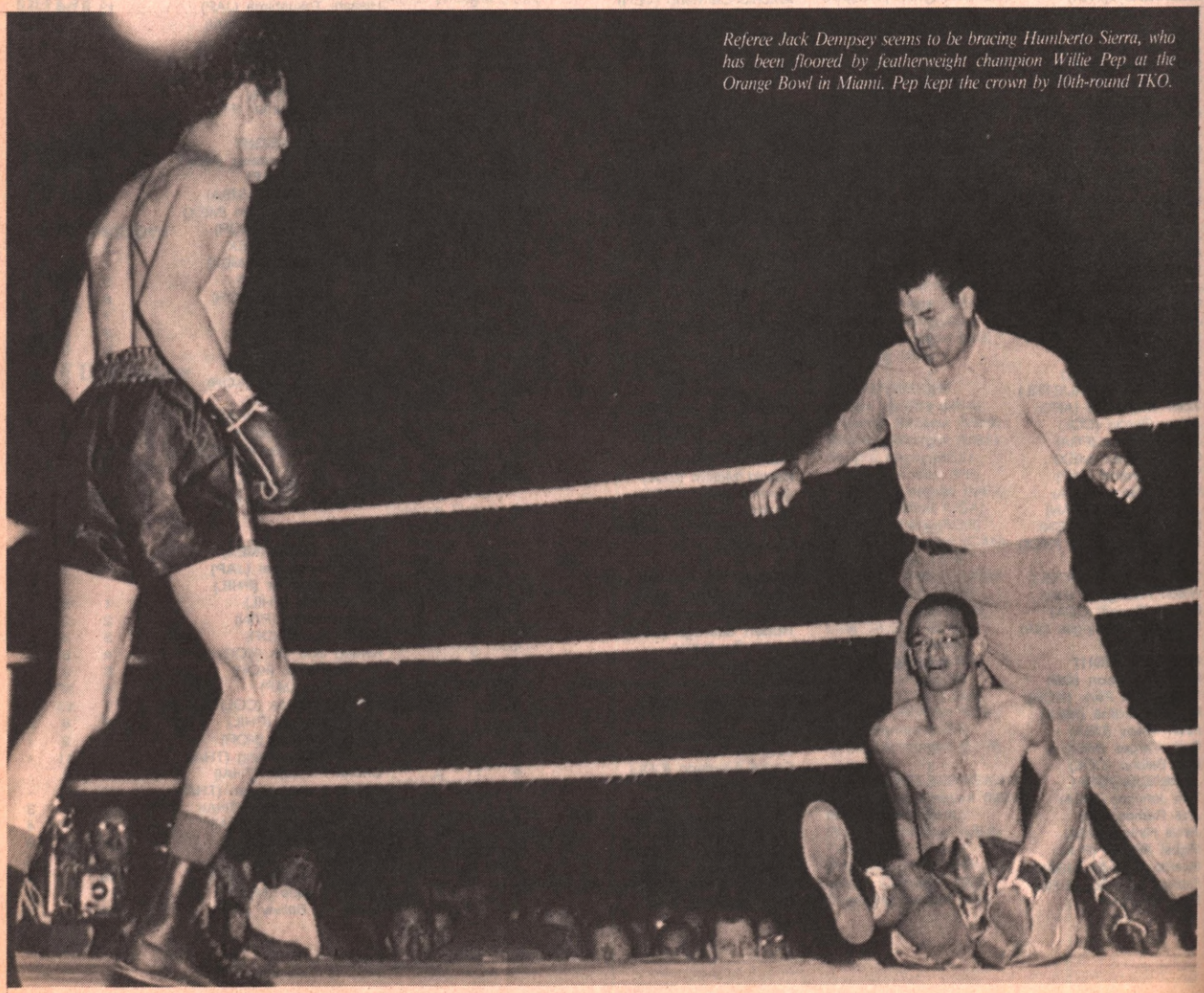
RING CLASSIC

A BUSY LITTLE CHAMP

Willie Pep's Knockout of Humberto Sierra Gains for the Titleholder a Place in the Fistic Hall of Fame—Has One of the Most Remarkable Records in Ring Annals

From The Ring, May 1948

By Daniel M. Daniel



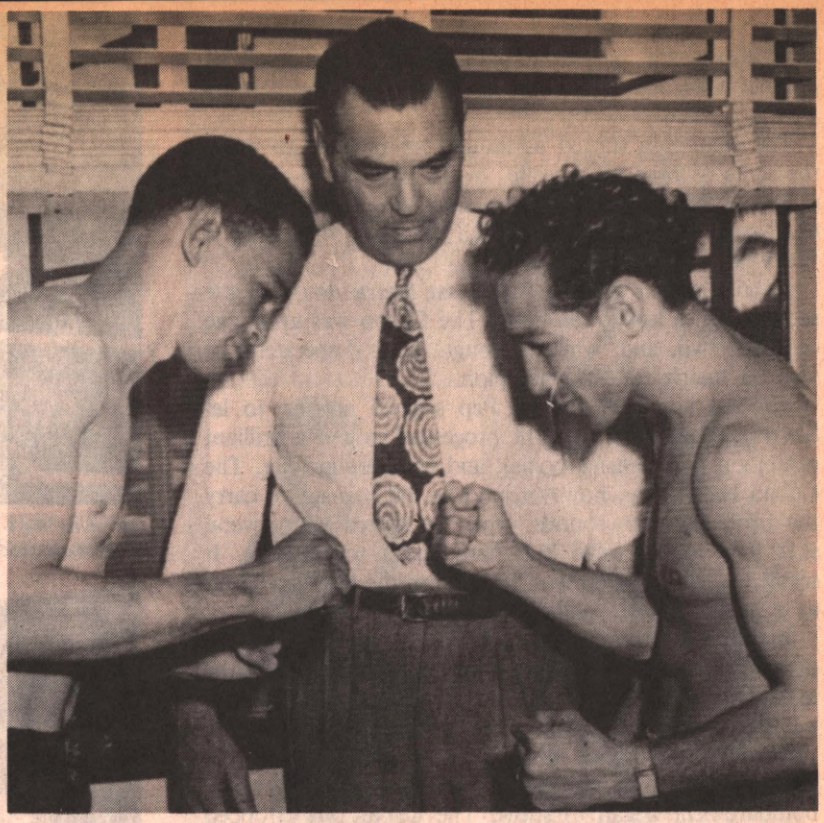
Referee Jack Dempsey seems to be bracing Humberto Sierra, who has been floored by featherweight champion Willie Pep at the Orange Bowl in Miami. Pep kept the crown by 10th-round TKO.

Ringside, Orange Bowl, Miami, FL—Willie Pep may not be the greatest featherweight champion the ring has known, but so far as the current crop of 126-pounders is concerned, the Hartford Italian is practically an entire division by himself.

In outclassing Humberto Sierra, the Cuban challenger, in their title match, Pep gave the 10,000 fans a convincing demonstration of how a real champion operates in an important match.

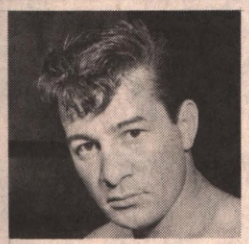
From the opening gong, until referee Jack Dempsey halted the one-sided affair in the 10th, the bout was little more than a workout for Pep. Willie was entirely too fast, too clever, too ringwise, and too accurate a puncher for the lanky 23-year-old Cuban, and after the first round it became only a matter of how long Sierra would last.

That the bout went as far as it did was due to the treacherous canvas, which became wet and slippery from intermittent rain. After getting off to a fast start, and



Sierra, referee Dempsey, and Pep pose before the title fight. Pep, a 3-1 favorite, controlled the bout from the start and proved far superior to the game Cuban challenger.

THE RING RATINGS, *May 1948*



Rocky Graziano

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Joe Louis

1. Joe Walcott
2. Elmer Ray
3. Tommy Gomez
4. Jimmy Bivins
5. Joey Maxim
6. Arturo Godoy
7. Phil Muscato
8. Sid Peaks
9. Joe Baksi
10. Lee Savold

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Gus Lesnevich

1. Ezzard Charles
2. Archie Moore
3. Freddie Mills
4. Bob Foxworth
5. Billy Smith
6. Lloyd Marshall
7. Billy Fox
8. Billy (Chicken) Thompson
9. Dave Sands
10. Tommy Yarosz

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: Rocky Graziano

1. Marcel Cerdan
2. Tony Zale
3. Bert Lytell
4. Steve Belloise
5. Jackie Darthard
6. Jake LaMotta
7. Major Jones
8. Jose Basora
9. Anton Raadik
10. O'Neill Bell

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Ray Robinson

1. Kid Gavilan
2. Bernard Docusen
3. Gene Burton
4. Ralph Zannelli
5. Buster Tyler
6. Tommy Bell
7. Johnny Greco
8. George Costner
9. Tippy Larkin
10. Johnny Cesario

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: Ike Williams

1. Enrique Bolanos
2. Rudy Cruz
3. Freddie Dawson
4. Jesse Flores
5. Billy Thompson
6. Maxie Docusen
7. Paddy DeMarco
8. Terry Young
9. Beau Jack
10. Paulino Montes

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: Willie Pep

1. Sandy Saddler
2. Charley Riley
3. Miguel Acevedo
4. Carlos Chavez
5. Chico Rosa
6. Harold Dade
7. Humberto Sierra
8. Jose Gonzalez
9. Manny Ortega
10. Jackie Graves

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: Manuel Ortiz

1. Guido Ferracin
2. Jackie Paterson
3. Luis Galvani
4. Peter Kane
5. David Kui Kong Young
6. Fernando Gagnon
7. Bunty Doran
8. Luis Castillo
9. Stan Rowan
10. Armando Puenti Pi

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: Rinty Monaghan

1. Dado Marino
2. Maurice Sandeyron
3. Monito Flores
4. Dickie O'Sullivan
5. Mustapha Mustaphooui
6. Raoul Degryse
7. Emile Famechon
8. Terry Allen
9. Luis Fuentes
10. Al Chavez

piling up a big lead in the first two rounds, Pep was satisfied to pace himself until the ninth, when the rain became heavy again, and Willie decided to finish matters.

***

The champion started as though he intended to make the scrap as brief as possible. In the first round, a series of terrific left hooks sent Sierra staggering to his haunches. As he arose, Pep drove him into the ropes with a flurry of rights and lefts.

Continuing his assault, Willie sat Sierra down in the second with a left to the body. The Cuban was up at the count of two, and, while he fought back desperately, he was no match for the champion.

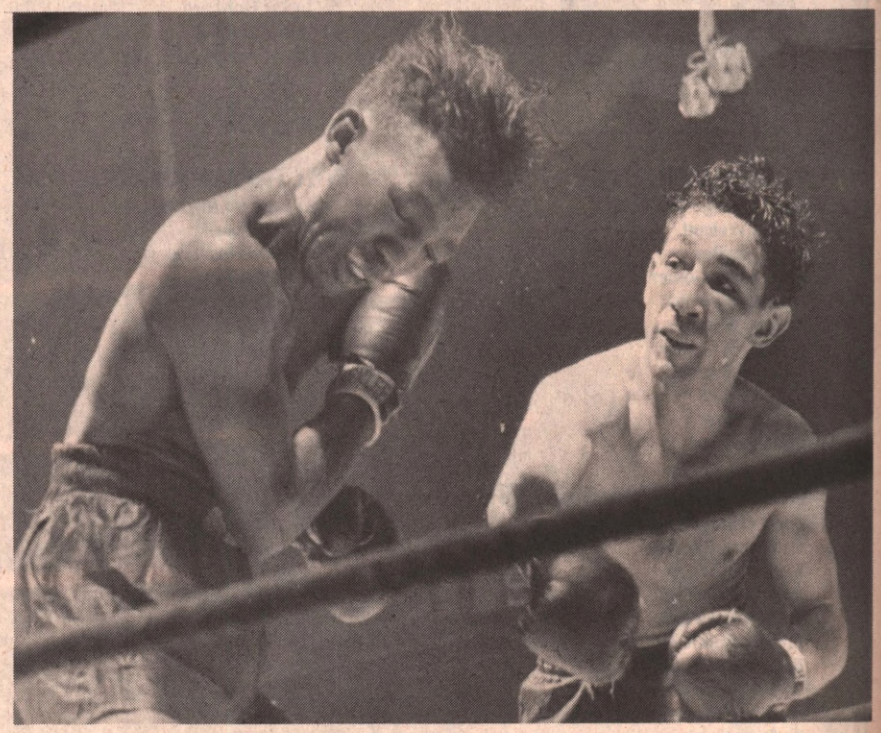
For the next few rounds Pep seemed content to let Sierra take the lead, while he proceeded to give a brilliant exhibition of defensive boxing and counterpunching. The Cuban kept trying, however, and he did manage to carry the fifth and sixth rounds, when he scored with several stiff lefts to the head and hard rights to the ribs. It seemed as though Pep was tiring from the fast pace, but, as it so developed, Willie was merely "coasting."

It started to rain heavily again in the seventh, and Pep decided that matters had gone far enough. Assuming the aggressive again, he dealt vicious punishment to Sierra, but the Cuban gamely stood up under the battering.

Through the eighth Willie continued to hammer the challenger, and by the ninth, the effects of his heavy bombardment began to show. The Cuban was dropped with a short right to the jaw, and arose, rubbery-legged, at the count of five. Pep ripped into him with both hands, and had him out on his feet at the bell.

The minute's rest apparently did Sierra little good, for he was still unsteady when he came out for the 10th, and Pep lost no time finishing him. Willie drove the Cuban into the ropes with a solid left, and as he reeled away, Pep was on top of him, banging away with both hands. A right sent him crashing to the canvas, and referee

One of the ring's master generals, Pep frustrated Sierra when the challenger got inside (above), and maneuvered the Cuban into uncomfortable positions (below).



Pep has controlled the 126-pound division since dethroning Chalky Wright in 1942. Pictured: In September 1944, Pep again outpointed Wright over 15 rounds.

Dempsey wisely halted the affair after only 22 seconds of the round had elapsed.

***

The busiest champion the ring has known since Maxie (Slapsie) Rosenbloom ruled over the light heavyweights, Pep's outing with Sierra was his 15th, and second title defense, in eight months—since he returned to the ring last June after recovering from near-fatal injuries in a plane crash.

Pep's complete record to date is one of the most remarkable in boxing annals.

In 127 professional bouts, he has accounted for the amazing total of 125 victories, with only one lost decision and one draw marring the string.

After a fine amateur career in his native Connecticut, Willie turned pro during the summer of 1940, and ran off a string of 62 straight wins before meeting with his first, and only, setback. He was outpointed by former lightweight champion Sammy Angott in Madison Square Garden in March 1943.

In August 1947, Pep defended against Jock Leslie, whom he halted in 12 rounds. The champion has made six defenses—and engaged in 65 non-title bouts.

Picking up from there, Pep went on another rampage to register 28 consecutive triumphs before he was held to a draw by Jimmy McAllister in Baltimore in December 1945.

He has since put together another winning skein of 34 in a row—one of them a "squaring-up" engagement with McAllister, whom he knocked out in two rounds in Madison Square Garden in March 1946.

Another of Willie's many fistic distinctions is that of having been the youngest world champion in boxing history. It was on his 20th birthday (November 20, 1942) that he whipped Chalky Wright for the title in the Garden.

Any suspicions that Pep may have been outgrowing the featherweight class, and that making 126 pounds has become a trying ordeal for him, was dissipated by the Sierra bout. Willie scaled in at 125½, and never looked stronger.

It'll take a mighty good fighter to knock Pep off the featherweight throne, and at this writing there doesn't seem to be anyone around capable of doing it. ■

THE RING, May 1948

The Cover: Featured is Stanley Weston's portrait of 175-pound contender Ezzard Charles, who deserves a try at the world title, whether at light heavyweight or heavyweight.

The Sad Heavys: Daniel M. Daniel examines the heavyweights and concludes that the division has reached an all-time low. With world champion Joe Louis (pictured) approaching retirement and top contender Jersey Joe Walcott already in his mid-30s, the immediate future is bleak. There are no outstanding young contenders, and the winner of Louis-Walcott II is likely to turn to light heavyweights Gus Lesnevich and Ezzard Charles for competition.

The Fuss Over Gus: Ever since the end of World War II, light heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich has been a sizzling fighter. In March, Lesnevich retained the 175-pound crown for the fourth time, halting Billy Fox at the 1:58 mark of the first round. It was the fastest title fight kayo in division history.

The "Other" John L.: Publisher Nat Fleischer profiles the legendary John L. Sullivan, revealing the former heavyweight champion's gentle side, his intelligence, his interest in poetry and acting, and his generosity. "Sullivan," wrote Fleischer, "never walked half a block without flinging handfuls of coins to the youngsters who tropped after him."

Fighter Of The Month: World light heavyweight champion Gus Lesnevich receives the honors for his first-round kayo of Billy Fox. Also worth a mention: Willie Pep, who stopped Humberto Sierra, and Buster Tyler, who upset welterweight contender Tommy Bell.

Looking Ahead

By Jeff Ryan

Cole is looking for the big bucks

ICEMAN'S FROZEN ASSETS

When fight people talk about titles being devalued, they usually mention something about 17 weight classes, three champions per, and contrived battlegrounds like super middleweight and strawweight. IBF cruiserweight king Al "Ice" Cole displays more tangible proof of devalued crowns: his bankbook. Since winning the title, he hasn't exactly been wearing fancy furs in an attempt to ward off the chill from a lot of Cole, hard cash.

Cole fought once in '92, outpointing James Warring on ESPN for the title. For his entrance into the history books, he pocketed $25,000. An ESPN defense against recycled Uriah Grant on February 28 will earn him $100,000. Better, but not what he had once envisioned.

"I'm very disappointed," Cole says. "I thought I'd make at least $200,000 for my title fights. I hope to bring the cruiserweights more attention, but it'll be hard. There aren't many name opponents to fight."

Cole's earning power is also hindered by his style. When he fights, PunchStat operators count sheep, not blows. No wonder he was considering challenging *heavyweight* champion Riddick Bowe during halftime of the Super Bowl. Bowe eventually scrapped his Super Sunday plan, but Cole, a rumored foe, says he would have jumped at a purse expected to have been $500,000.

A desperate move? Perhaps. But a necessary one. The cruiserweight Ice Age is upon us, and it's safe to say that it hasn't given anybody goose bumps.

JUNIOR FEATHER-DUSTING

The last great 122-pound matchup was in December 1982, when WBC champion Wilfredo Gomez kayoed Lupe Pintor in 14 ferocious rounds. When Gomez waved goodbye to the weight class and headed to featherweight, he left behind little more than a forwarding address. The attention he had brought the division just sort of packed up and headed north with him.

Now, finally, the junior featherweight ranks have a must-make matchup. On December 5, Tracy Patterson defended the WBC crown, battling to a draw with Daniel Zaragoza. Three days earlier, Kennedy McKinney halted IBF ruler Welcome Ncita in the 11th round. Check out the ratings and you see nobody for Patterson and McKinney to fight. Except each other.

Would Patterson risk his belt vs. McKinney?

Their matchup would be a pairing of two talented boxer-punchers in their primes, and would feature some intriguing sidelights. Patterson, as you know, carries on the legacy of Papa Floyd, and McKinney, a 1988 Olympic gold medalist, is a recovering substance abuser who finally appears to have his life and career in order.

Those are enough subplots to fuel *All My Children* for a month.

LISTEN UP

Riddick Bowe says he doesn't need WBC champ **Lennox Lewis**, but maybe Lewis doesn't need him, either. The Briton's first three challengers could be **Alex Stewart**, **Tony Tucker**, and **Frank Bruno**. Let all three punch away at Lewis at the same time and *maybe* we'd have a competitive fight. ■

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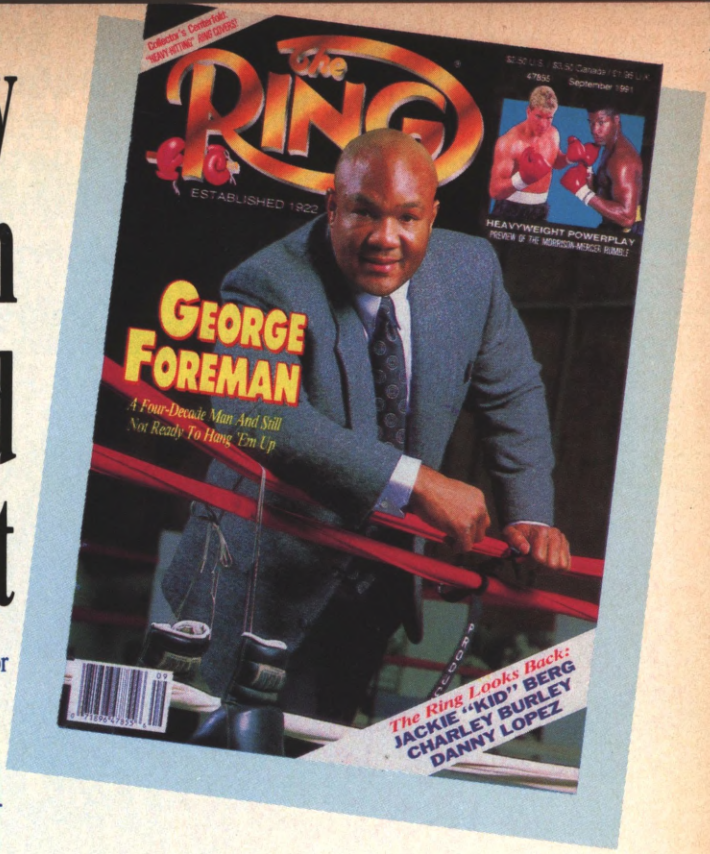

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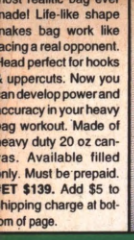

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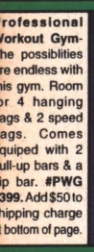

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Super Bag Gloves-The best bag gloves in the world! 12oz. Hook & Loop closure. Excellent wrist support. **#SBG-M $40, #SBG-L $42 & #SBG-XL $46.** Now available in solid black.

Handwraps-Extra long(170") hook & loop closure. **Red #HW $4.25** Mexican style (180") slightly elastic, **Gold #MHW $5.00.** Junior (120") for smaller hands. **Blue #JRHW $3.75.** Knuckle Guards **#KG $7.**

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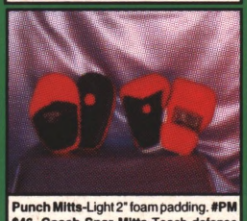

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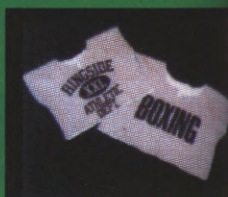

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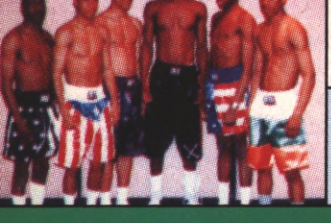

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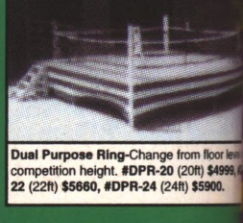

Dual Purpose Ring-Change from floor lev competition height. **#DPR-20** (20ft) **$4999, 22** (22ft) **$5660, #DPR-24** (24ft) **$5900.**

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